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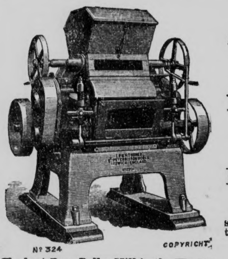

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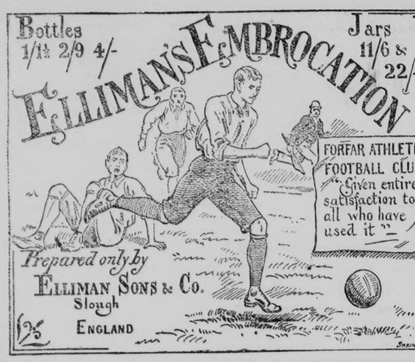

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A TRAGIC MYSTERY.

FROM THE DIARY OF INSPECTOR BYRNES.

BY

JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

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CHAPTER XIX.

CONFESSION.

THE other four arrests had been accomplished with similar promptness and success. No one of the prisoners was aware of the apprehension of the rest. Each protested his innocence of any crime, and demanded to know the charge against him. But the demand was made in vain. It was received by the captors in absolute and ominous silence.

This reserve and secrecy were alarming. What could they portend? It seemed like a revival of the old *lettre de cachet*. Every member of the group trembled in his heart, and explored the darksome recesses of his conscience with unwonted assiduity.

Not the least agitated of the five was McGloin himself, upon whose experiences we must henceforth concentrate our attention. He had been captured by the inspector in person, and immediately conducted to a cell in the basement of the central office. The heavy door was locked upon him, and he was left to pass the night in solitude. It was late, but his excitement and anxiety banished all thought of sleep. Sometimes he sat on the wooden bench, with his head between his hands. Sometimes he stood up and tried to look through the little window in the upper part of the door. Sometimes he forged restlessly about his cell, like a rat in a cage. All the while his brain was busy, though the train of thought that agitated it was narrow, and kept returning in a wearisome circle upon itself. What had he been taken for? Could any evidence against him have leaked out? Was it possible that any of his companions had informed upon him? And then a picture would rise before him—a scene which memory often obtruded upon his mental gaze—a scene which he always regarded with a tremor of fear and hatred, and strove to banish, but it returned, and returned again; not vague and indistinct, but revealed in its minutest and most trivial details. Why could he not forget it? He had forgotten many things. But this thing he could never forget; it stayed with him, asleep or awake; it would go with him to his grave. What was it? His lips had never told it; but, at times, a terrible longing had come upon him to pour out the whole dark story, and so be free of it. But he had always restrained himself; the story was untold. To be free of that omnipresent, haunting picture would be an infinite relief, no doubt; but freedom could be bought too dear at the price of an agonising and shameful death. No, he would never speak; and so long as he kept silence, he was safe.

But again, in the silence and darkness, his doubts returned. Was he safe, indeed? Had he, perhaps, left any traces behind him, which had at length been gathered, and followed up? Or was the evidence more direct? Had he been betrayed? But surely his friends would not betray him! His friends! Had he any friends? Was any friend of his so faithful as not to sell him for five hundred dollars? What had he ever done to cement their friendship? Get drunk with them; lounged on the street corners with them; spent dissolute nights with them; thieved with them. And were these the right methods to secure allies who would stand by him in his hour of need? But had he ever done a kindly or a generous act? Had he ever denied himself a gratification for the sake of another? Had he ever won regard by gentle behaviour, modesty, and good-humour? He tried to think of some such instance, but he could recall none. He had been arrogant, boastful, cruel, reckless and treacherous. Those who had been his nearest companions were bound to him by no ties stronger than may proceed from community in ill-doing. Were such ties to be depended upon now? And yet, if not, what had he to depend upon?

He sprang to his feet, stretched out his arms, and shook himself. He would not give way to such thoughts. How did he know what he was arrested for? Perhaps it was not for what he had feared; perhaps it was for some trifling violation of the law; or, possibly he was only wanted as a witness in some matter where he had not been the chief agent. It might be so; and, in that case, he was putting himself to all this anxiety to no purpose. But, once more, was such a hope tenable? Had the circumstances of his arrest—the suddenness, the foresight, the mystery—no other meaning than this? He could not believe it. If the night would only pass! it was dreadful to be here alone. Any companion would be better than solitude. Someone to whom he might speak, and who would speak to him, were it only to curse him! Someone whom he might touch, and would touch him, were it only to strike him! Solitude is terrible to a mind that fears to look into itself, and is barren of any consoling or gracious memories.

Morning came at last. The door of McGloin's cell was unlocked, and a silent custodian signed to him to come forth. McGloin followed out into the stone passage-way, and up a flight of echoing steps. From there they emerged into a broad corridor, running through the huge building, and paved with a tesselated pavement of stone. At either end were swinging doors, and through them came a gleam of the outer sunshine. Would he ever again be permitted to go forth into that sunshine, a free man? The hand upon his shoulder pushed him forward, through a side-door, into an ante-room. There he was once more left to himself for a while. Besides the door by which he had entered, there was another door, and upon this his eyes were fixed. What lay upon the further side of it?

He waited for what seemed a long time. Then, the sharp tinkle of a bell made him start. Before he could recover himself, the door opened, and he went forward into a large carpeted apartment. Immediately in front of him was a green-baized table; on the walls was a collection of bludgeons, fire-arms, knives, gallows'-caps, and other appurtenances of crime, with which the reader has already been made familiar, but which McGloin now saw for the first time. The spectacle did not tend to reassure him. But his attention was perforce withdrawn from these objects, and directed upon the man who sat at the table, with a window on either side of him, through which the white light streamed. These windows looked out upon an open court or well, in the centre of the building, encompassed on all four sides by white-washed walls. In the opposite wall there was a door; and another door on the adjoining side to the right. The court was empty, save for the snow that lay in it like a cold, white carpet.

The man at the table was Inspector Byrnes. He looked up at the prisoner as he entered, and the latter felt his gaze fixed penetratingly upon his face. Then, without speaking, he turned his attention to some papers that lay before him on the table.

After the silence had lasted as long as McGloin could endure it, he broke it himself.

"What am I here for?" he asked. "What have I done?"

There was another pause. Then the inspector glanced up and said, "You are here to answer questions, not to ask them." He took up a pen and proceeded to put the formal interrogations.

"What is your name?"

"Michael McGloin."

"What is your age?"

"But, inspector," faltered the prisoner, "I don't know what I'm here for."

"What is your age?"

"Well, I'm twenty-one."

"Where do you reside?"

McGloin realised that it was useless to struggle against this iron official routine, and he replied submissively, "at No. 259, West Twenty-ninth-street."

The inspector wrote the answer down, and then, to the prisoner's surprise, rose from the table, stepped to a door at the side, opened it, and went out.

McGloin was again alone. He glanced cautiously about him. The photographed countenances of the thieves and murderers stared back at him from the walls, and the implements of crime defined themselves to him in unwelcome distinctness. He turned from them and looked out of the window. There lay the snow, white and untrodden. A nervous tremor fell upon him. He cleared his throat and moistened his dry lips. When was this hateful suspense to end? As yet no charge had been made against him; no accuser had faced him. By an effort he mastered his nervousness, and summoned all his courage to his aid. He had the name of being a bold fellow among his associates; he would show that the reputation was deserved. If there had been any evidence against him, surely it would have been produced. None had been; therefore there could be none. He had been arrested on some vague suspicion merely. Courage, and face it out!

A door behind McGloin opened softly, and there was a sound of footsteps on the carpet of the room. At first he did not move; but, as the steps did not advance, he presently glanced over his shoulder. A man and boy stood in the doorway, fixing upon him a scrutinising gaze. Neither of them uttered a word.

For a time he submitted to their inspection as best he might; but at length, with an impulse of irritation, he returned it. But, as he did so, a new alarm awakened in his mind. Their faces were not unknown to him. That of the man certainly was not. Yes, the man was surely no other than Bernard Rosenthal, the pawnbroker of Ninth-avenue. As the conviction came upon him, McGloin's heart grew faint. These people had come to identify him. But did they recognise him? There was no sign of it in either of their faces, nor did either of them speak a syllable. He began to hope a little again. Perhaps the identification was a failure.

At that moment the inspector re-entered the room. He went up to the two and received something from the boy's hand—McGloin did not see what. Rosenthal and the other then withdrew, the door closing softly after them. The inspector returned to his seat, and, as he resumed it, he laid upon the table an object, the sight of which sent a chill to the marrow of McGloin's bones.

It was a five-barrelled revolver, with a white handle.

He stared at it with the fascination of dismay. Then, recollecting himself, he forced his eyes away from it, and encountered those of the inspector riveted upon him in a cold and penetrating regard.

This was a critical moment. It was the opening of a direct conflict between the two men: the officer contending for truth and justice, the prisoner fighting for his life. It was a more even battle than might at first appear. For though the inspector had all the authority of the law on his side, and also the powerful advantage that McGloin was ignorant as to the extent of his knowledge of the case, and of the amount of evidence at his disposal, yet McGloin possessed the strength which desperation will give to any man, and, with the instinctive insight of despair, he perceived that there must be some defect in the chain of proof against him; because, were it otherwise, he would have been brought at once to judgment, instead of being approached, as it were, by siege. Morally, and on the testimony of his emotions, he stood convicted already, but there was a wide chasm of difference between such conviction and that which avails before a jury. The combat, therefore, was practically between the will and character of one contestant pitted against those of the other. McGloin and the inspector both knew what crime it was which was the occasion of their struggle; the latter was resolved that McGloin should incriminate himself, while McGloin was determined not to do so. The inspector had meditated deeply upon his mode of procedure, and had planned his attack down to details of which the other had no conception. But McGloin had the doggedness born of deadly peril, and was also fortified by the fact that it is even more difficult to compel obedience than to refuse it.

Thus far, the success had been on the side of the inspector. By the manner of the arrest, by the silence, by the solitude with which he had surrounded the prisoner; by the unexpected apparition of the pawnbroker, and by the production of the weapon itself with which the murder had been committed, he had overcome McGloin's self-possession, and caused him to reveal, by his manner and expression, the visible consciousness of guilt. But now the situation was changed; the effect of mystery and suspense were exhausted; reserve and ambiguity were cast aside. By sheer strength of personal wit and resource must the victory be decided—by these, and by a stratagem, carefully prepared and subtly calculated, by a keen student of human nature, to break down the barriers of the prisoner's resistance. What that stratagem was, will in due course appear.

"Come here, McGloin," said the inspector, in a cheerful and almost friendly tone, which was so little expected by the culprit, as partly to throw him off his guard; "come here; I must have a talk with you."

He placed his own chair in front of the window as he spoke, and drew McGloin into a position directly facing him, and so close that there was barely a foot between them. The light from the window illuminated every feature of the prisoner's face, and rendered every movement and change of expression discernible.

"Well, Mike McGloin," resumed the inquisitor "you consider yourself a very hard character—a regular 'tough,' do you not?"

"No, I don't," was the reply; "why should I?"

"A 'tough,'" the other repeated; "and, as I believe you know, no one has a right to call himself a 'tough' until he has knocked out his man!"

McGloin could not repress a slight jar of the nerves. He recognised the words as the very ones which he himself had used; though where, and under what circumstances, he could not at the moment remember.

"This is not the first time you have been arrested," pursued the other.

"There wasn't nothing in that; petty larceny, that's all; the luck was against me; it don't make me out worse than the rest of them."

"After that," continued the inspector, "you joined a gang of waggon thieves."

"Me?"

"You, Moran, Banfield, Morrissey, and one or two more. Can you tell me where you were on the third of this month, at eleven o'clock in the evening?"

The question was put abruptly, but it relieved McGloin's mind of a heavy weight. The occasion referred to was that of the waggon theft in South Fifth-avenue.—a very different thing from a murder. If this were all, he was safe.

"I don't remember where I was, inspector," he said, with an air of great candour. "I was round town, I guess—doing no harm."

"Banfield drove the waggon that night," the other went on, in the same quiet tone; "you and Morrissey and Healy stood by to land the barrel of liquor. It was you that struck the patrolman the blow under the ear. He has identified you and the rest of the gang. Come, you ought to remember that. It was only night before last that you told the story yourself," said the inspector, looking him squarely in the eyes.

McGloin bit his lip and his face reddened. It was characteristic of the ineradicable vanity of the man that this revelation of Charlotte's true character did not so much alarm him as shame him with the thought that she had been making a fool of him all along. But the next moment he turned pale again. If she was a detective, what security could he have that any other of his companions was not? And if so——

"McGloin," continued that calm, resolute voice, "you come of a decent family, and you had a chance to make your living honestly if you had chosen to do so. But you preferred to become a blackguard and a thief. You joined a gang of worthless fellows like yourself, and spent your time in drunkenness and robbery. You robbed from the sidewalk and in the hallway; and you also robbed from saloons. You practised the fainting trick: sometimes successfully, sometimes not."

He paused there, and McGloin shifted uneasily in his chair. His worst fears were reviving.

"If you had been satisfied with that you would not be here to-day. But you were not satisfied. You coveted the reputation of being worse—more desperate than your companions. And one night you commited a crime——"

What was McGloin looking at? Not at the inspector; his glance passed him and was fixed in a terrified stare upon something in the snow-covered court. As he sat he commanded a full view of this area, upon which the inspector's back was turned—though he, too, perhaps, knew, as well as if he saw it, what was passing there.

This was what McGloin beheld. The door on the opposite side of the court opened. Three men issued from it, and passed slowly and silently across to the other door. Two of these men were policemen. The third, who walked between the others, with manacles on his hands and a livid face, was McGloin's former friend and companion, Tom Moran!

It was impossible to disguise the effect of this blow. The prisoner's face twitched and his mouth trembled. He clinched his teeth desperately, but he could not meet the inspector's eyes again. In a husky voice he put the question, "What is the charge against me?"

The reply went through his nerves like ice. "The charge against you, McGloin, is murder!"

But, in this last extremity, his courage rose again. Now or never was the time to defend himself. He summoned all his energies, and assumed a careless, confident air.

"Me charged with murder? Well, that's good! And who was it I'm supposed to have murdered?"

The inspector waited nearly a minute before answering. Then he said quietly, "The name of the man you murdered was Louis Hanier."

"You mean that Frenchman in Twenty-sixth-street?" The inspector bent his head. The young man attempted a laugh; it was a ghastly attempt. "Who says I killed him?"

"The evidence against you is complete."

"No one can prove it on me."

"You are mistaken, McGloin," said the other, with unruffled composure. He took hold of the revolver and held it up. "This accuses you first of all. It was with a bullet from this revolver that you shot Hanier. You then pawned it, giving a false name, at Rosenthal's. He and his boy were here just now, and they both fully identified you."

The prisoner felt the ground giving way beneath him. But he made another struggle.

"If I did pawn the pistol there, what of it? That doesn't show anything. I picked it up in the street. Who says I killed Hanier?"

As if in response to the question, the door in the court-yard opened again, and again the grim procession passed silently before his eyes. But this time it was not Moran, but Morrissey, who walked handcuffed between the two officers.

"Can you doubt, McGloin," said the voice of the inspector, sounding in the culprit's buzzing ears as if proceeding from a vast distance, "can you doubt that your accomplices would betray you? It was not they who fired the shot; and do you imagine that they would not rather sacrifice you than suffer themselves?"

It was fatal logic. All hope died away. The bitterness of death came into his heart. And yet he would not yield without one effort more.

"It's a lie!" he cried out. "There's nothing in it! I swear I didn't kill Hanier, and no one can say I did!"

"McGloin," said the inspector, his quiet manner changing to an icy coldness and severity, "you have gone too far to retract, and you can add nothing to what is already known. I can give you no hope of mercy; but, if there be any, it would rest upon your full and unreserved confession. With that I have nothing to do. Every one of your accomplices is arrested, and when you leave this room you go to meet them."

The miserable culprit strove in vain to frame a defiant reply. He could not command his voice to sound or his tongue to utter. And even then the black door yawned for the third time, and disgorged yet another phantom train, gliding noiselessly in the footsteps of their predecessors. And now it was Banfield upon whose wrists the fetters gleamed.

McGloin waited for no more. The fight was fought, and he was conquered. His face shrivelled up; the blood left his lips; he sank on his knees on the floor, and the cry burst quavering from his throat:

"Oh, God! Inspector, can you save me from hanging?"

As he looked down upon the wretched creature cringing there, with broken will and quaking heart, a certain movement of compassion found its way into the inspector's mind. He had won a great victory; he had executed a masterly manœuvre of detective work; the apparition of McGloin's three accomplices, which he had contrived, had amply fulfilled his anticipations; and yet, what a paltry antagonist did McGloin now appear? Was such an unmanly cur as this worth hanging?

But when he remembered Hanier's little children, crouching on that December night in their murdered father's blood, his pity for the murderer vanished. He had shed man's blood, and by man should his blood be shed. All the better if he put the noose around his own neck.

He explained to McGloin that his confession would be of no avail unless it was taken down in writing before the coroner. This, McGloin, who was now as eager to make a clean breast of his crime as he had heretofore been to conceal it, entreated might be done. Perhaps it was the hope of some lightening of the sentence which actuated him—perhaps it was the mere craving to unload his soul of its hideous burden. Be that as it may, there was little in his narrative that need detain us. The crime had been committed nearly as the inspector had originally surmised. The gang of young ruffians had robbed and wrecked the shop in revenge at having been detected in the attempt to empty the till. When Hanier's step had been heard on the stairs, the others had retreated; but McGloin, in a spirit of bravado, had gone to the foot of the narrow staircase, and had discharged his weapon at the descending figure, the bullet passing through his heart. Such was his crime, and his confession having been duly substantiated by the depositions of his accomplices, he suffered for it the full penalty of the law. With him we have nothing further to do.

But there is one episode still to be related, which, as it is of an agreeable nature, may well occupy the closing page of a story which has few pleasing features.

Some time after the events last described, a deputation waited upon the inspector in his private office; and, after the first greetings had passed, the spokesman said:

"The fate of that young scoundrel will be the best lesson the 'toughs' of New York have ever received. The credit of his capture and conviction belongs to you, Inspector Byrnes, and you have earned our thanks, and those of the community. And you have also earned something which is, if not better, at any rate more substantial."

With these words, he laid upon the official desk the placard offering a reward of five hundred dollars for the arrest of the murderer of Louis Hanier; and upon the placard he placed the sum of money itself.

In his cool, business-like way, Inspector Byrnes took the money in his hand. He made no pretence of replying to the complimentary address. All he said was, "This money is for the capture of Hanier's murderer. Well, gentlemen, I think the proper persons to have it are Hanier's widow and children, and I would be pleased to have you hand it to them."

The others nodded their heads in grave approval, and said, "That is a new way of using blood-money, and it does you and your officers credit."

THE END.

THE AMUSEMENTS OF PARISIAN WOMEN.

Most Paris women stay so much indoors that their material surroundings at home are of particular importance to them. Many of them go out only once a day, for an hour or two, perhaps. The vast majority have still, notwithstanding the change that is coming over them, no outdoor amusements. Indeed, viewing amusement as a serious occupation, there is vastly more of it in London than in Paris, or in any other city in the world. No people run after amusement so insatiably as the English; they are at it all day, in some form. The Parisians, on the contrary, take their pleasures mainly in the evening, and almost always rest in peace till the afternoon; those who ride or do anything in the morning are infinitely few. As a practice, they do not dress for dinner when they are alone; the mass of them give scarcely any dinner-parties to friends or acquaintances; but, as a consequence of their family attachments, they constantly have relatives to share their *gigot*. There are no day-nurseries for children, who live in the drawing-room, or a bedroom, with their mothers, and learn there to become little men and women. There are no old maids, mainly because almost every girl marries young; if any fail to find a husband (which happens rarely), they vanish out of sight; unmarried women over thirty are scarcely known or heard of in Paris; the thousand duties to which they apply themselves in England are left undischarged in France. Finally, no visitors come to stay in a Paris house—partly because it is not the custom, partly because there is no spare room, which is the better reason of the two.—From "Indoor Life in Paris," in *Blackwood's Magazine* for December, 1894.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

When a son, grown to manhood, leaves the parental roof to take up life's fight for himself, both mother and father keenly feel the loss. Perhaps the father carries himself in a matter-of-course way, slaps the young fellow on the shoulder and wishes him luck, but the mother sheds many a tear all to herself. She bore him, nursed him, pulled him through his illness, and lugged him about on her tireless left arm. He is her "baby" still, and as he goes he takes a big piece of her heart with him.

But she mourns the girls even more, when they abandon her. That is why a wedding in the old home, a daughter being the bride, is proverbially as sad as a funeral. Yet, in one way or another, the young people go, God help us! and leave father and mother alone with their grey hairs and their memories.

A father who came near losing a beloved daughter with disease speaks of it thus: "Our Anna," he says, "had an attack of influenza in October, 1889. Her food did not nourish her, and in spite of all we could do she wasted away till she was thin and wan and weak. Her hands and feet were cold and clammy—she was always cold, notwithstanding extra flannels and clothing. A little later she became so emaciated that it did not seem as though she had any life left in her. She lost all her bright spirits and was listless and helpless. At this time she was about sixteen years of age.

"Then her breathing got hard and difficult, and it was painful to hear her. Next her legs became swollen and puffed, and she could only walk a few yards. Abscesses began to form on her legs, arms, neck, and ankles. They finally came to be about as large as eggs—about three inches in diameter. Nearly a pint of matter came away from some of them. At length the poor child had twenty-four of these on her body.

"For weeks and weeks she lay on the couch sinking gradually, until she looked like death. Wife and I felt like having to give her up. During eighteen months it took my wife over an hour, night and morning, to dress these terrible and painful abscesses. At first we had a doctor from Faringdon, but she got no better from his treatment. He recommended us to get her into a hospital, but we did not like to let her go. We next tried a doctor at Stanford. He attended her twelve months, but she got worse and worse. What more to do we did not know. It seemed as though she was surely doomed to die. Yet help came when we had stopped looking for it.

"In December, 1891, we heard of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and the great things it had done after the medical men had failed. We got the medicine from Messrs. Ballard and Co., chemists, Faringdon, and she commenced taking it. In a few weeks we noticed a great improvement in her general health. Her food digested and strengthened her, and in two months we could see the abscesses dying away, and soon they were all gone.

"*She is now as strong as ever she was, and is the picture of health.* My wife and I, also everyone in the village, look upon the cure as miraculous. That Mother Seigel saved Anna's life we are fully persuaded. You are at liberty to publish this statement. I will gladly answer any inquiries. Yours truly (signed), Isaac King, innkeeper, Horn Inn, Charney, Berks, November 25th, 1892."

Mr. King is happy over this splendid result. Who would not be, in his place? But there was no miracle. What the Syrup did was on Nature's straight lines. His daughter's case was one of blood poisoning from the deadly acids engendered by the non-digestion of her food. Probaby it had been coming on, unsuspected, longer than her parents thought. The danger to her life was great; indeed, death was certain in a little more time. Most fortunately they heard of Seigel's Syrup before it was quite too late.

This magnificent remedy expelled the poison from the blood, and by righting the digestion prevented the formation of more. Long may the family circle continue unbroken.

HOTELS.

WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY NEXT.

THE GRAND CAFE RESTAURANT and WINTER GARDEN,

OLD BUTTER MARKET, IPSWICH.

The Cuisine will be under the Direction of MONS. EDOUARD SCHMITT, from the Maison Ga cia, Faubourg S. Honoré, Paris.

High-class Luncheons, Dinners, Teas, &c.

Elegant Public and Private Dining Rooms.

LADIES SHOPPING and VISITING IPSWICH are respectfully informed that AFTERNOON TEAS and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS will be served in the Winter Garden from 3 to 6 p.m.

Silver Grill:

Chops and Steaks served in the Grill room from 12 to 9.30 p.m.

N.B.—The Restaurant is reserved for gentlemen after 8.30 p.m.

WILLIAM BULLOCK,
CHERRY TREE HOTEL, EYE,

IN thanking the Clergy, Nobility, and Public generally for the support accorded him during the past eight years, begs to inform them he has Broughams, Landaus, Phaetons, Dog Carts, Large Brake and 'Bus for Cricket and other outings. Hearse and Mourning Coaches, Wedding Carriages, to orders for which special attention is given. Charges strictly moderate. 'Bus leaves every Friday for Diss at 1.30, returning from Crown Hotel at 5.30. Fare, 1s. return.

Passengers by Steamboat will find CHEERFUL FIRES, COSY ROOMS, GOOD DRINKS, PLENTY of NEWSPAPERS, and the BEST ATTENTION at

WESTGATE'S,
LOCK TAVERN AND HOTEL,
(near the Steamboat Piers), PROMENADE.
Dinners, Suppers, &c., for large and small parties.

Pure Beer and Where to Get It.
Why not end all doubt on this matter by getting a supply from
HARRY COCKRELL,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
IPSWICH.
Either of the Celebrated BURTON ALES supplied in Small Casks.
The WHISKEY sold at this Establishment it is well-known still "holds the field."

QUEEN STREET RESTAURANT,
IPSWICH.
WINES and SPIRITS, ALES and STOUT on Draught or in Bottle.
SOUP, FISH, ENTREES, POULTRY, JOINTS, Daily.
BALLS, BANQUETS, and WEDDING BREAKFASTS supplied throughout in First-class Style.
BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, TEAS, and SUPPERS; accommodation for Commercial Gentlemen.
JAMES HARDWICK, Proprietor.

UNICORN HOTEL,
IPSWICH.
Proprietress: MRS. E. LAST.
COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY HOTEL.
CATCHPOLE'S FINE ALES & STOUT, WINES AND SPIRITS.

WESTGATE RESTAURANT
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DINING AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS. WINES, ALES and STOUT on Draught or in Bottles. BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS, TEAS, and SUPPERS.
YAPP'S PORK PIES, &c., &c.
A. YAPP, Proprietor.
PORT WINES DRAWN FROM THE WOOD, LARGE GLASS 3D.

BRITISH LION,
COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY HOTEL,
PRINCES STREET, IPSWICH,
Five Minutes from Railway Station.
THE above Hotel has been thoroughly renovated, and Commercial Gentlemen will find every comfort and convenience with strictly moderate charges. No attendance charged, First-Class Billiard Room. Trams and Busses pass to and from the station.
Proprietor: JOHN L. MOYSE,
Dealer in First-Class Horses.

ROSE HOTEL,
ST. PETER'S, IPSWICH.
Proprietor: A. LAST.
The above Hotel has recently undergone considerable Alterations and Enlargements, and the Proprietor begs to call the attention of the Public to the fact that he has now every Accommodation for Commercial Gentlemen and Private Parties.
Breakfasts, Dinners, Teas supplied on reasonable terms
All classes of catering tendered for.

Immediate Cash Advances
AT LOW CHARGES,
UPON EVERY DESCRIPTION OF NEGOTIABLE SECURITY
(BILLS OF SALE EXCEPTED).
Ipswich Loan AND Deposit Bank
(MESSRS. R. D. & J. B. FRASER)
ESTABLISHED 1833,
17, Elm St., Museum St.,
IPSWICH.

MORNAY'S SYRUP.
THE most extraordinary Medicine ever discovered for the Cure of
WHOOPING COUGH, CROUP, BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, PLEURISY,
and all other Catarrhal Affections of the Lungs and Air Tubes.

MORNAY'S SYRUP.
ON account of the great success of this wonderful remedy, the Proprietor has been induced to bring it more generally before the public. During the last five years, Thousands of Cases of Whooping Cough have been treated by it with the most unvarying and complete success, not one death occurring; cure being completed, on an average, in Three Weeks. The cases of inflammation of the Lungs and Air Tubes successfully treated by this remedy are almost numberless. In Croup it is unfailing, if taken in time, for Croup, when neglected, soon becomes incurable.

COMMON COLDS ARE CURED by Two or Three Doses of
MORNAY'S SYRUP.
Sold in Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. each, by all Chemists.
LONDON DEPOT—2, WINSLEY STREET, OXFORD STREET.

DAMANT,
OLD BANK BUILDINGS,
TAVERN STREET, IPSWICH.
TAILOR AND COLONIAL OUTFITS.
Golfing and Football Costumes.
Outfitter by appointment to the G.T.C., and all the leading Clubs in the County.

FOR HIGH-CLASS CYCLE REPAIRS GO TO
R. STANNARD,
PRACTICAL CYCLE MACHINIST,
STATION ROAD, STOWMARKET.
Several New and Second-hand Safeties, by best makers, at Clearance prices. All warranted genuine machines. Cast iron and gas pipe death traps neither bought nor sold. Awarded 1st prize, Ipswich, 1891, for cycle work.

STEAD AND SIMPSON'S
FOOTBALL BOOTS
ARE THE CHEAPEST AND BEST THAT ARE MADE.
9 & 11, TAVERN STREET.
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GEO. KEMP,
ATHLETIC OUTFITTER, 23, ANN STREET.
WAREHOUSE: MARKET LANE, IPSWICH.
FIRST-CLASS FOOTBALLS at Medium Prices; Best Match Balls, 7 sections, 7/3 each; best Victoria, 8 sections, 8/- each. The MARVEL, cut from one piece of leather, the best ball made for retaining its shape, 9/6 and 10/6.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY HALF-BACK.]

I think I shall not be far out in saying that the gale of Saturday was about as stiff a breeze as ever the Town have had to play in. As a choice of evils it was preferable to rain, but one could have wished that the match had been graced by elements a trifle less boisterous. Comparatively speaking, only a small number of spectators lined the ropes, but considering the discomfort of witnessing a match under such conditions this was not surprising. Indeed, I think it was a matter for congratulation that matters were no worse. The Town Club are of course a little out of pocket by the game, but they avoided the outlay in the form of expenses that would have attended their visit to Peterborough.

Well, after all, what are the odds? The Town Club for the first time enters the competition proper for the English (Amateur) Cup, and can afford to drop a few shillings over such a victory as that of Saturday. If the Southern Correspondent of the *Athletic News* is to be believed the Town "will not get far in the competition," but then that gentleman was judging by the result of the match with the Vampires, which we have the privilege of knowing was no criterion of the present form of the team. Should the "Stripes" be favoured with a little luck in the matter of the draw I have far more sanguine hopes of them.

Allowing for the fact that the Town men were certainly favoured in winning the toss, they were altogether the better team. None of the spectators, however, felt particularly easy at half-time, although the home side had placed six goals to their credit. It was thought not at all improbable that the visitors might be able to beat even that number when they obtained the co-operation of the gale. It needed a few minutes only of play in the second half, however, to clearly demonstrate the fact that the Peterborough men were outclassed, the seventh goal scored in the teeth of the gale at once putting the result beyond all question.

The Town halves and backs played the right game all the way through, constituting themselves as it were into five halves, all working calmly and effectively together. Towns, Kent, and Oxborrow were the smartest of the forwards, although little fault could be found with Ratcliff and Cotton. To Towns, however, belongs the honour of the seventh goal, and he well deserved the ovation he received. The defence gave Cornell small opportunities of distinguishing himself, but he came very near giving away a goal on one occasion. Of the visitors, the outside wings were by far the best of the forwards, and I should imagine that the backs on a calm day would prove a very reliable pair, but they were all at sea in the high wind and spoilt their kicking by continually skying the leather.

Bury Alexandra appeared to be going alarmingly to pieces last week. Their first defeat by Long Melford was followed on Saturday by another at the hands of the Lavenham men, at the latter town, by three goals to one. The Melfordians on the other hand, climbed into first position by beating the Haverhill Rovers at Haverhill by three goals to none. This is a complete reverse of form, the Rovers having beaten their opponents in the first match at Long Melford on Boxing Day. The Haverhill Rovers were at home to Bury Alexandra on Boxing Day, and the result was a victory for the Alexandrians by five goals to *nil*. The table therefore revised to date stands as under:—

	Pld.	Won.	Drn.	Lst.	Goals For	Goals Agst.	Pts.
Bury Alexandra	8	6	0	2	31	7	12
Long Melford	9	6	0	3	28	11	12
Haverhill Rovers	9	4	2	3	13	15	10
Haverhill Town	4	3	0	1	19	4	6
Lavenham	5	2	0	3	4	16	4
Glemsford	8	2	0	6	6	28	4
Sadbury	5	0	3	2	2	7	3
Bury Town	4	0	1	3	2	17	1

Three North Suffolk League matches were arranged for Saturday, but owing to the gale two were postponed. The one played was that between Beccles Caxton and Leiston, upon the former's ground. As was generally anticipated, the home men had an easy task in hand, and eventually won by four goals to nothing. This game leaves Leiston in the unenviable position of the wooden spoonists, having only one point to their credit out of five games played. On Boxing Day Lowestoft Town were "at home" to Saxmundham, the Hurts Hall Park men romped away with a four to one victory, thus fully maintaining their recent improvement in form. The table revised to date stands as under:—

	Pld.	Won.	Drn.	Lst.	Goals For	Goals Agst.	Pts.
Kirkley	4	4	0	0	16	7	8
Beccles Caxton	5	3	1	1	11	4	7
Saxmundham	5	3	0	2	16	9	6
Chaucer Press	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Beccles College	5	2	1	2	8	9	5
Halesworth	4	2	0	2	6	10	4
Lowestoft Town	6	1	0	5	11	22	2
Leiston	5	0	1	4	3	15	1

"Misfortunes seldom come singly." This old saw applies particularly just now to Harwich and Parkeston Club. Till a fortnight ago they held an unbeaten record for the season. Then Ipswich Town spoiled the look of their score sheet in a most ruthless manner. The defeat at the hands of the Town, however, was small disgrace compared with that which they received on Saturday at Colchester by St. Peter's Institute. To no one, I should imagine, was the result so great a surprise as to the vanquished men. The "Saints" are considered far from being the best team in Colchester, but Saturday's game has added considerable lustre to their laurels.

The Boxing Day match between Ipswich Town and Upton Park attracted by far the largest gate of the season, there being about 1,600. In spite of the fact that the Town won "hands down," they did not appear in their best form. In the second half the shooting of the home forwards was poor in the extreme. They should certainly have scored two or three more goals, for they pressed almost without intermission throughout the latter moiety. As it was, they were clearly entitled to one more goal than the referee allowed them, the ball having gone on one occasion almost a yard inside the net when the visitors' goal-keeper threw away.

The left full back and the left half back were undoubtedly the pick of the London team, but the forwards appeared rather a poor lot, and were invariably held in check by the Town backs and halves. The greasy state of the turf and ball of course affected the quality of the play, but that was not everything. Excuses, however, may be readily found for want of form during the festive season. Bailey's back play was, perhaps, the most worthy of mention during the afternoon, whilst Walford was but little inferior to him.

A very exciting football match was played on Boxing Day between the Stutton and East Bergholt teams, and resulted in a victory for Stutton by two goals to *nil*.

The gale prevented several League clubs from deciding their fixtures on Saturday. However, several holiday matches have been played during the present week, a list of the results being given below, on the ground of the first-named in each instance:—

LEAGUE (DIVISION 1).

Saturday.		
Wolverhampton Wand'rs	0—Aston Villa	4
Small Heath	1—Notts Forest	2
Blackburn Rovers	3—West Brom'h Albion	0
Burnley	2—Sheffield United	4
Tuesday.		
Bolton Wanderers	1—Liverpool	0
Preston North End	3—Stoke	0
Sheffield United	1—Derby County	4
Wednesday.		
West Brom'h Albion	0—Sunderland	2
Wolverhampton Wand'rs	1—Burnley	0
Blackburn Rovers	3—Sheffield United	2
Aston Villa	6—Stoke	0
Derby County	0—Bolton Wanderers	2
Sheffield Wednesday	2—Small Heath	0
Thursday.		
Notts Forest	2—Sunderland	1
Wolverhampton Wand'rs	3—West Bromwich Albion	1

The table, revised to date, is as follows:—

	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Drn.	Goals For	Goals Agst.	Pts.
Everton	16	12	1	3	52	23	27
Aston Villa	20	13	6	1	54	23	27
Sunderland	16	12	2	2	47	17	26
Blackburn Rovers	19	8	6	5	36	33	21
Notts Forest	17	9	6	2	31	31	20
Preston North End	19	8	7	4	32	29	20
Sheffield Wednesday	16	9	6	1	28	25	19
Burnley	18	8	7	3	31	25	19
Sheffield United	20	8	9	3	36	42	19
Small Heath	19	6	9	4	37	48	16
Wolverhampton W.	20	6	10	4	29	45	16
West Bromwich Albion	19	6	10	3	33	40	15
Bolton Wanderers	19	4	10	5	30	38	13
Derby County	16	4	8	4	26	35	12
Liverpool	19	2	10	7	26	46	11
Stoke	17	3	11	3	20	45	9

LEAGUE (SECOND DIVISION).

Saturday.		
Newcastle United	7—Walsall	2
Newton Heath	3—Lincoln City	0
Bury	4—Burton Wanderers	0
Burton Swifts	2—Notts County	2
Rotherham	0—Grimsby Town	1
Monday.		
Newton Heath beat Burslem Port Vale.		
Tuesday.		
Bury	4—Leicester Fosse	1
Woolwich Arsenal	7—Burslem Port Vale	0
Notts County	5—Walsall Town Swifts	0
Newcastle United	6—Crewe Alexandra	0
Lincoln City	2—Rotherham	0
Wednesday.		
Lincoln City	1—Bury	3
Grimsby Town	4—Woolwich Arsenal	2
Rotherham Town	1—Newcastle United	0
Burton Wanderers	8—Manchester City	0
Walsall Town Swifts	0—Newton Heath	2

The table revised to date is given below:—

	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drn	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Bury	20	17	2	1	59	22	35
Grimsby Town	17	13	4	0	57	28	26
Newton Heath	17	10	2	5	40	20	25
Notts County	17	9	4	4	38	24	22
Woolwich Arsenal	16	8	6	3	44	38	18
Newcastle United	17	7	7	3	45	46	17
Darwen	15	7	6	2	30	17	16
Burton Swifts	15	7	6	2	29	28	16
Burton Wanderers	14	6	7	1	25	24	13
Lincoln City	14	5	9	0	29	40	12
Manchester City	16	5	9	2	40	49	12
Leicester Fosse	12	4	5	3	28	27	11
Walsall	15	5	10	0	20	39	10
Rotherham Town	18	5	13	0	31	43	10
Burslem Port Vale	14	2	11	1	9	38	5
Crewe Alexandra	12	1	11	0	10	48	2

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MRS. ADA S. BALLIN, Editor of *Baby*, writes:—"I had your 'GRIPE WATER' analysed on the occasion of *the Baby's Exhibition*, as I was requested to mention it in my lectures. The result of the analysis was such that I had pleasure in recommending it."
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Announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the senders.

MARRIAGES.

BARBER—QUAIL—25th inst., at St. Matthew's Church, Ipswich, by the Rev. F. Haslewood, Robert John, fourth son of R. T. Barber, of Ipswich, to Adelaide Mary, fourth daughter of William Quail, of Paddington, London.

CALVERT—HART.—16th October last, at Villard County, Minnesota, U.S., by the Rev. J. Greenup, of Notley, Marcus Calvert, fourth son of Mr. W. S. Calvert, of East Bergholt, to Sadie, third daughter of Mr. P. O. Hart, of Todd County, U.S.

CHAPPELL—BURRELL.—24th inst., at St Luke's Church, Nightingale Lane, S.W., by the Rev. G. Talbot-Whitehead, Harry William Chappell, of 58, Cranbrook Park, Wood Green, N., only son of Henry R. Chappell, of Halesworth, to Lydia Maud Moore (Lillie) Burrell, fifth daughter of the late G. E. Burrell, of Aylsham, Norfolk.

DAVY—OAKLAND.—19th November, at Calcutta, by the Rev. R. M. Julian, Ernest Palgrave Davy, of the B.M.S. Patna City, Bengal, India, eldest son of Edgar Davy, late of Red House, Stradbroke, Suffolk, to Sarah, youngest daughter of Samuel Oakland, Castleford, Yorkshire.

RILEY—MATTOCK.—26th December, at St. Peter's Church, Ipswich, by the Rev. W. Berry, John Burton, eldest son of the late Thomas William Riley, of Stamford, to Mary Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late William Mattock, of Combs, Suffolk.

YELLOP—BARBER.—25th inst., at St. Matthew's Church, Ipswich, by the Rev. F. Haslewood, Charles Edward, second son of James Yellop, to Lucy Susannah, fourth daughter of R. T. Barber, all of Ipswich.

DEATHS.

ALLARD.—15th December, at Debenham, after three weeks' illness, Frederick John, the dearly-beloved and youngest child of Frederick and Elizabeth Allard, aged 16 months.

ALDRICH.—22nd December, after a very short illness, in his 84th year, Pelham Aldrich, M.R.C.S. Eng., of Mildenhall.

BOWLES.—17th December, at Beccles, Caleb, the beloved husband of Ann Bowles, formerly of Norwich, aged 74 years.

COCKERILL.—21st December, at 77, Vernon Street, Ipswich, William W. Cockerill, aged 35 years.

CROYDON.—25th December, at Tavern Street, Ipswich, Alfred Edward, second son of Charles Harry Edward and Caroline Mary Croydon, aged 24 years.

CLARKE.—24th December, at Walton, George Edward, the dearly-loved son of George and Sarah Clarke, aged five weeks.

EDGE.—December 26th, at Combe Martin House, Upper Tooting, in his 82nd year, the Rev. William John Edge, M.A., formerly vicar of Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting, vicar of Benenden, Kent, and rector of Waldringfield, Suffolk.

GOODAY.—25th December, at Great Ashfield, William Gooday, formerly of Hardwick, aged 84 years.

GOODING.—At his residence, 257, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, very suddenly, Isaiah, the beloved husband of Elizabeth Gooding.

GREEN.—22nd December, at Surbiton Villa, Stowmarket, after a long affliction, Thomas John, the beloved husband of Catherine Sarah Green, aged 67 years.

MAW.—23rd December, at Hurstlea, Needham Market, Edith Mary, wife of Samuel Alexander Maw, in her 45th year.

NUNN.—25th December, at 108, London Road, Ipswich, Walter Nunn, aged 60.

PRIDDEN.—15th December, at 6, Clydesdale Terrace, Ipswich, Marianne, widow of the Rev. William Pridden, M.A., rector of West Stow-cum-Wordwell, Suffolk, and daughter of the late John Worlledge, Esq., of Ingham and Chevington, aged 78.

STANNARD.—6th December, at Bucklesham, after a short illness, George Stannard, aged 79 years.

SPURGEON.—8th December, at Violet Hill, Stowmarket, John, the beloved husband of Louisa Spurgeon, wood and stone carver, late of Sprowston, Norwich, aged 54 years.

TACON.—19th December, suddenly, at Darsham, in her 71th year, Elizabeth, widow of William Tacon, farmer, of Great Glemham.

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BUILDING TRADE TROUBLES.

There is likely, says the *City Press*, to be a terrible upheaval ere long in the building trade. Last year it was the men who were to the front, but next May the masters mean to take the offensive, and insist upon a due consideration of their claims. The return to the old wage will be demanded on the ground that the prices now ruling in the trade do not afford a sufficient margin to allow of the payment of the additional halfpenny granted as the result of the last strike. Unless either arbitration is resorted to and a policy of give-and-take mutually agreed upon, we are likely to see a disruption that will not only stop building operations altogether, but also more or less disorganise many of the chief industries of the country.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM
MR. C. RUSSELL HURDITCH.
"Homocea Co., Birkenhead.
"Dear Sirs,—I cannot speak too highly of your excellent Ointment 'Homocea.' In our family we seem to fly to it for every physical ache and pain, while the workers of our mission have met with numerous cases in which its benefit has been well proved, and we give it away largely among the poor. The superintendent of one of our mothers' meetings says:—'One woman told me that it gave her almost instant relief in acute neuralgia, while another said it was invaluable in cases of rheumatism, and many others similarly testify to its great usefulness.'
"C. RUSSELL HURDITCH."

"KEEP YOUR HAIR ON."
This is very sound advice, but difficult to follow when your hair is slowly but surely coming off. We have just discovered another of the many wonderful properties of "HOMOCEA." Where they will end we cannot exactly foresee. The following unlooked for and unasked for letter is from a well-known clergyman, who, though he does not wish his name advertised, kindly permits us to give it to intending purchasers:—
March 30th, 1894.
Dear Sir,—One day being out of Pomade, I was driven to use your "HOMOCEA," out of sheer necessity. The sensation was so pleasant that I continued to use it. Judge of my surprise, when I found my hair beginning to thicken. I shall now persevere with its use, but I write at once in case you do not know all the virtues and possibilities of your wonderful preparation.
Yours faithfully, D.D.

LORD COMBERMERE says HOMOCEA did him more good than any embrocation he had ever used for rheumatism.

HOMOCEA which
"TOUCHES THE SPOT,"
is undoubtedly the most perfect remedy that has ever been offered to the public.

All wholesale houses stock HOMOCEA. It can be obtained from Chemists and others at 1s. 1½d. or 2s. 9d. per box, or will be sent by post for 1s. 3d. and 3s. from the wholesale agency, 21, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

HOW THE WORLD WAGS
IN EAST ANGLIA.

ITEMS PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL, PITHY AND PERTINENT.

TOLD BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

*** Districts will be found alphabetically arranged. All Church news usually placed under this heading will be found arranged under the special heading of Church Notes and News."

ALDEBURGH: A RARA AVIS.—A rare specimen of the black swan (*cygnus niger*) was secured on the Meres, near Haven House, on Monday. Under Hele's Notes, a black swan was shot 30 years ago; he was first noticed in the Mere, and afterwards killed in Sizewell Marshes.

ALDEBURGH: MARRIAGE OF MISS BINNY AND MR. ALF. MORITZ.—The wedding of Mr. A. Moritz, of Chalbury, Ealing, with Miss Katherine Murray Binny, daughter of Major General Binny, late B.S.C., retired. The bride wore a charming gown, the petticoat of which was composed of rich ivory duchess satin, the bodice and train of a scroll pattern brocade; the bodice and petticoat were draped with a lovely piece of antique lace, lent for the occasion by the mother of the bride. The bridesmaids were the Misses M. and C. Binny, sisters of the bride, and the Misses Moritz, sisters of the bridegroom. They wore pretty costumes of silvery blue brocaded silk, trimmed with blue ribbons, chiffon, and passementerie, large black velvet picture hats, with veils, and carried dainty butterfly muffs of black velvet, which held white chrysanthemums. The bride's going away gown was a smart fancy Scotch tweed, effectively trimmed with shot velvet.

BECCLES: HARD LABOUR FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.—At the Police Court on Friday Wm. Charles Woolnough, labourer, pleaded guilty to embezzling the sum of £4 3s., handed to him to pay over to his employer, Mr. W. Woolnough, hay dealer. The accused was sent to Pakefield with a load of hay, and Mr. G. Jacobs paid him for a previous load, but he failed to account for the payment to his master, who stated that he had not received any of the money. Prisoner was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

BUNGAY: THE READING-ROOM.—On Friday the annual general meeting was held at the Reading-room. Mr. D. H. Brewer presided, and read a report from Mr. James Murray, the hon. secretary, who has left the town, from which it appeared there were 23 honorary and 80 6s. members, and after an expenditure of £42 13s., there would be about £5 10s. in hand. Mr. D. H. Brewer was unanimously re-elected chairman for the ensuing year; Mr. W. D. Walker, treasurer, and Mr. Waglin, secretary; Committee, Messrs. W. Downing, W. C. Fenn, W. H. Lewis, H. M. Hurst, J. O. Pask, H. Rowe, H. Stammers, H. Rumsby and Rev. J. G. Watson. A vote of thanks for papers supplied gratis was passed to Mr. Luke McDonnell, Dr. Beard, Mr. Brewer, and others.

BUNGAY: VOLUNTEER PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.—The annual distribution of prizes to the F Company 2nd V.B. Norfolk Regiment took place at the Oddfellows' Hall on Friday evening. Lieut.-Colonel Hartcup presided. Major Mann said that the standing of the Company, both as regards numbers and efficiency, had improved during the past year, and that the shooting had been very much better than usual. In 1893 the strength of the Company was 75; this year it had reached 84. They had enrolled 21 members. Every member of the corps during the past year had been returned as efficient—(cheers)—that was highly satisfactory. The drills had been well attended. Thanks were very much due to Messrs. Clay and Sons, and the other employers of labour in the town, for allowing the men to go to camp. With regard to the shooting, last year the Company was third best shooting Company in the Battalion, with a figure of merit of 151·03; this year they found themselves second, with a figure of merit of 181·59, being 10½ points per man better than last year. They had had to give way to A Company, which beat them by 1·54 points per man, but he hoped next year they might be able to turn the tables upon A Company. The shooting of the recruits had been very good; out of 19 sixteen were first-class shots, and the remaining three second-class.—Col. Hartcup distributed the prizes, after which a very pleasant evening was spent.

CAPEL ST. MARY: ACCIDENT TO A CARTER.—George Ablett, of Capel St. Mary, in the employ of Mr. Green, farmer, was, on Monday, coming to Ipswich in charge of a waggon and three horses, and when near the Elms, at Copdock, the horses became unmanageable, and bolted, throwing the driver under the wheels, which passed over him, breaking his thigh. He was conveyed to his home, where he was seen by a doctor, and is now progressing favourably.

DEBENHAM: THE RECENT BAZAAR.—The bazaar recently organised by Mrs. Duke in aid of the poor of the parish realised, after all expenses were paid, £25.

EAST BERGHOLT: VILLAGE AFFAIRS.—The members of the string band went round the village during the early hours of Christmas morning, and played a selection of Christmas music.—The recent heavy rains have swollen the river Stour, and caused considerable damage. At Flatford the rush of water was so great near the lock that the river bank gave way. A large part of the towpath has been torn up.—A beautiful stained glass window has been placed in the south chapel of East Bergholt Church by Mrs. Densham, in memory of her brother, the late Dr. Manning, of Stutton. The window is divided into six sections, and is illustrative of St. Matthew xxv., 35 and 36. The work has been executed by Messrs. Lavers and Westlake, London.

EYE.—All the *employés* at Eye Railway Station received a Christmas present from the Colchester Brewing Company, for which they desire to make public recognition.

GRUNDISBURGH: SEQUEL TO A CHRISTMAS "DRAW."—On Saturday evening a singular accident occurred at the Half Moon Inn, when a Christmas draw was being decided. The room, which is over the cellar, was full of interested spectators, when suddenly the whole floor gave way, precipitating the entire company into the cellar below, which, owing to the heavy rain during the previous night, was flooded. Happily all escaped with but slight bruises and scratches. A lamp, which had been standing on the table, was extinguished when it fell into the water.

IPSWICH: A YOUNG MAN'S BRAVE CONDUCT.—A horse attached to a van belonging to Mr. G. L. Oxborrow, of St. Peter's Street, on Christmas Eve, suddenly bolted from Windsor Road. Wm. Frost, a young man employed by Mr. G. Dunnett, butcher, Norwich Road, observed the danger which threatened the numerous people in a thickly thronged thoroughfare, and with commendable forethought he at once gave chase. Coming alongside the affrighted horse he seized its head and just pulled it up in time to divert its course, and thus prevent what threatened to be a collision with an approaching vehicle.

INTERMENTS IN IPSWICH CEMETERY.—Friday: William Tuthill, 68 years, St. Mary at the Elms; Caroline Downing, 44 years, Holy Trinity; William H. Cant, 49 years, St. Clement. Saturday: Marion Simpson, 32 years, St. Matthew; Isabella Singleton, 33 years, St. Matthew; Walter S. A. Tunmore, 21 years, Holy Trinity. Monday: George Cattermole, 1 year, St. Mary-at-the-Elms; Annie J. Garrod, 22 years, St Helen; William W. Cockrill, 35 years, St. Peter; E. Calver Calver, infant, St. Clement. Thursday: Sarah Cann, 42 years, St. Peter; John Barker, infant, St. Margaret; Ernest R. Dennis, infant, St. Peter.

IPSWICH BOROUGH POLICE COFFEE AND CHRISTMAS FUND.—It will be remembered that this time last year the Borough Police appealed to their friends to save them for the future from the repetition of a vile joke perpetrated at their expense by a miscreant who, there being no alteration in the above fund from the previous year, *i.e.*, it was stationary, requested he might be informed why the Police Coffee Fund was like pens, ink and paper. It is now a pleasing duty for the police to return their grateful thanks for the answer made to their appeal for protection, the result being that they are able this year to receive the sum of twenty-six shillings and fourpence each, this amount being three shillings more than when their fund was so improperly used as a vehicle for a bad joke.

IPSWICH: ORNITHOLOGICAL SHOW.—The Excelsior Cage Bird Society held their annual show at the Three Tuns Inn, Ipswich, on Boxing Day, when special and money prizes, presented by the tradesmen, were competed for. Upwards of 100 birds were entered. The members' classes were well filled, and contained some splendid birds, among which were Mr. Smyth's noted crest, which again won first prize and silver medal for the best bird in the show. Mr. G. Southgate's clear yellow, which took first at Ipswich Show, won first again. Mr. Smyth won the special presented by the proprietors of Sunlight Soap with a magnificent yellow hen. Other prize-takers included Mr. Galey, Mr. Trudgill, Mr. Routh, Mr. Shulver, Mr. Kell, Mr. A. Parsons, Mrs. Kell, Mr. Calver, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Hurrell, Mr. Scopes, &c. The duties of Secretary were discharged by Mr. W. Shulver, the hon. sec. of the Society, and the exhibits were judged by Mr. C. Simpson, of Spring Road.

IPSWICH: INTERESTING PRESENTATION.—Mr. Jos. Robinson, ex-Town Councillor, was the recipient on Christmas Eve of a well-deserved testimonial at the Leopard Inn. Mr. A. Riches presided, and said they thoroughly appreciated the work Mr. Robinson had done for trades unionism and working men generally. Mr. Horace Rampling (secretary to the Operative Bricklayers' Society) said a few working men had determined to show their appreciation in some way of Mr. Robinson's services to the workers, and, if possible, to brighten his Christmas. Mr. Robinson had done good work, and had in every possible way helped on the cause of labour, and they were only doing their duty in demonstrating their respect and esteem. He had, therefore, much pleasure, on behalf of the subscribers, in presenting him with a purse of money. This was not all, however, for there were subscriptions to come in, and many persons who would wish to subscribe had not yet heard of it. The matter had only been taken up a week, and the subscription list would be kept open until January 26th.—In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Robinson tendered thanks for the most useful and opportune present. He trusted that if he had health and strength and regular employment he might yet be able to continue the advocacy of the interests of the workers.

LEISTON.—The marriage of Mr. John Sherwood, of Leiston, with Gertrude, eldest daughter of Mr. W. H. Barrett, of Leiston Hall, will take place at St. Margaret's Church, Leiston, during the second week in January.

LEISTON: SUDDEN DEATH.—Much excitement was caused in the town on Saturday evening, when it was heard that a man had dropped down dead in the Aldringham Road. The deceased man was William Neal, aged about 48, a labourer, who lived at Aldringham. He was returning home about six o'clock with some friends, when he asked them to go on and he would overtake them, but immediately afterwards he was found lying in an insensible condition by the roadside. Mr. E. D. Wallis, surgeon, of Leiston, was quickly sent for, but the poor man was dead when the doctor arrived. An inquest was held at the Parrot and Punchbowl Inn, Aldringham, before Mr. A. F. Vulliamy, coroner, at which it transpired that the deceased was subject to fits. Verdict: "Death from natural causes."

LEISTON: HORTICULTURAL LECTURES.—The course of lectures on Horticulture, which has been held under the E.S.C.C. Technical Instruction Scheme, was concluded on Friday evening, when the lecturer (Mr. A. Andrews, head gardener to the Hon. W. Lowther, Campsea Ash) gave a resumé of his previous lectures. The course of instruction has been attended by an average of forty pupils. Mr. Andrews last season received a tangible token (in the guise of a marble clock) of appreciation from the members of the first class, and this was on Friday evening supplemented by a further expression of good feeling towards him. Mr. Alcock, on behalf of the members of the class, asked Mr. Andrews to accept a handsome pedestal lamp, which had been bought by the class for presentation to him. Mr. Andrews warmly acknowledged the compliment.

LEISTON IN 1894.—The year which is now drawing to a close may be regarded as having been a satisfactory one as far as business in this small but thriving industrial centre is concerned. Where new house property is continually being added it may be considered as a sure indication that the times in that particular place are good, and the building operations which of recent years have been in progress in Leiston were continued throughout 1894. The new street, Eastward Ho, is now almost full of new houses, and this important addition to the town numbers its inhabitants by the hundred. Out on the Saxmundham Road, in place of some old dilapidated cottages, a handsome row of new houses has sprung up, and in various parts of the town also new buildings are at the present time in course of erection. With regard to matters musical, more progress has been perhaps made than in any other previous year, and September will be memorable as the month in which the great choral festival of Haydn's "Creation" was performed in the Works Hall by a united chorus from Leiston and Aldeburgh, as the successful result of Mrs. Garrett-Anderson's endeavours to promote musical cult in the locality. It is a matter of congratulation to find that the Leiston Choral Society has been revivified under the able conductorship of Mr. Charles Ganz. The number of seaside visitors during the summer to Sizewell and the locality, generally very large, was this year, on account of the wet, smaller than usual. The local Technical Instruction Committee continue to do good work in the district. Besides the continuation classes at Coldfair Green and Leiston, two most successful classes in horticulture have been conducted during the winter, the number of pupils attending the same being large. With the new year a class in scientific dressmaking and cutting-out will be commenced. For the first time the Leiston Cottage Garden Show was held out of doors, and no more appropriate place could have been found for it than the Recreation Ground, presented by Mr. Frank Garratt, and which has now been thrown open to the public, proving a most valuable acquisition to the town. We must not conclude these notes without reference to the popular game of football, which has a great hold upon the local male population, no fewer than four or five elevens being engaged in this particular pastime one Saturday afternoon in December. We cannot, however, congratulate the Leiston Football Club upon their brilliant achievements during the present season, and it seems likely that they will keep their position at the foot of the North Suffolk League; but their pluck is to be admired in doggedly sticking to their fixtures, and the fact that their first eleven is composed entirely of young men living in the town is worthy of note. The fact of their having commenced to play their matches on the Recreation Ground has put them in possession of a splendid bit of turf, which is hardly to be surpassed in the county.

MENDLESHAM: PARAFFIN LAMP FATALITY.—On Saturday an inquiry was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Mendlesham, before Mr. C. W. Chaston, relative to the death of Fredk. Fellingham, aged 11 months, son of an agricultural labourer. The evidence of the mother showed that on the previous Tuesday morning at 7.30, she left him in a chair downstairs for a few minutes while she went out to place some linen on a line. A paraffin lamp was burning on the table; hearing him scream she ran in, and found the lamp had burst, and he was in flames. Verdict, "Accidental death."

MILDENHALL: DEATH OF DR. ALDRICH.—Dr. Pelham Aldrich died on Saturday morning at his residence in Mill Street, after a very short illness, at the age of 82. His son, as Lieutenant Aldrich, R.N., took a prominent part in the Arctic expedition under Sir George Nares. The remains of the late Dr. P. Aldrich (medical officer of health to the Mildenhall Union for 47 years) were interred at Mildenhall Cemetery on Thursday. The funeral was attended by some 64 members of the "True Friends" Lodge of Oddfellows, and nearly all the townspeople turned out to pay their last respects to the deceased's memory.

ORFORD: CHRISTMASTIDE.—Liberal supplies of beef, etc., have again, as usual, been distributed in the district.—The services at All Saints' Church were bright and hearty, and the church was nicely decorated for the occasion.

PULHAM ST. MARY: AN UNUSUAL PRESENTATION.—On Monday night, at the Reading Room, the members were presented with a very handsome billiard table. Mr. H. Cleaver said they had to thank Miss Haldane and Mrs. Bennett, who had collected £11 from various friends, and also Col. Bennett, who subscribed £1, and the Reading Room Dramatic Society, who, by the proceeds of their entertainment in November, raised £4 10s.

PULHAM ST. MARY: RUNAWAY HORSE.—Some excitement was caused on Saturday by the appearance in the village of a runaway horse drawing a cart belonging to Mr. J. A. Everson, wine and spirit merchant, of Harleston. Numbers gave chase, but on turning the corner opposite the Maid's Head Inn the cart came in contact with the wall of a shed, causing it to overturn, and completely wrecking it. The horse was not injured. Mr. Everson's man, who had charge of the horse and cart, was driven into the Maid's Head Yard about half an hour afterwards; he stated that he got out of the cart to pick up his hat in Long Stratton, a distance of about five miles, and that the horse bolted before he could get back again.

STOWMARKET:—CHRISTMAS DOLE.—On Tuesday the Churchwardens distributed eight warm great-coats and thirteen woollen gowns for the indigent poor of the town.

STOWMARKET: PRESENTATION TO A PASTOR.—The Rev. Luther W. Caws, the pastor of the Congregational Church, Stowmarket, has just been the recipient of a very pretty study clock, with date indicator and thermometer attached, presented to him by the lay preachers connected with the church.

STOWMARKET LOCAL BOARD.—An adjourned meeting of this Board was held on Friday. Mr. John Hayward (the chairman) read a letter from Mr. H. A. Oakes, tendering, on behalf of his partner, Mr. J. J. Bevan, resignation of the treasurership of the Board.—Mr. Frank Hervey Aston Oakes was appointed.—Mr. John Hayward, who was absent from the last meeting, thanked the members of the Board for their kind vote of thanks passed to him for his services as Chairman, and expressed the pleasure he had had in presiding for so long a period over them. He failed to remember a single meeting in which the members had not yielded to his ruling. He trusted that the new Council would work as harmoniously for the good of the town.—The Board then adjourned *sine die*.

STONHAM PARVA: FARRIERY CLASS.—On Monday evening last Mr. W. J. Turtill, veterinary surgeon, of Ashbocking, brought to a close his course of lectures, which have proved very instructive. Much good is expected to result from the lectures. The average attendance was 20 pupils per lecture, and would have been much larger had not several Parish Council meetings been held on the same evening. At the end of the course, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Turtill.

SOUTHWOLD: THE LATE MRS. H. DEAKIN.—The funeral of the late Mrs. Harold Deakin, whose death we recently recorded, took place at Southwold amidst every outward manifestation of deepest sympathy, the deceased's father (Mr. W. H. Elmy, the present Mayor) being so well known. The service was most pathetic, those present being practically the same as those who, a few months ago, were present at her wedding in the same church. The choir were in attendance, and sang the psalms and the hymn, "On the resurrection morning," and as the body was conveyed into the chancel the organist played "O, rest in the Lord," and during the progress from church to graveside, the "Dead March" in *Saul*. There was a large congregation in the church, and special provision had to be made for floral offerings, which were of the most beautiful description, sent by the following:—Mr. Harold Deakin, Father, Brother and Aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deakin, Mr. and Mrs. William Crimmen, Mr. and Mrs. James Crimmen, Mr. W. J. Elmy, Mr. and Mrs. James Elmy, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wigg, Mrs. J. K. Deakin, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Deakin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Deakin, Mr. and Mrs. Duguvel Jandot, Mr. Geo. K. Deakin, Miss Katie Crimmen, Mr. and Mrs. George Wigg, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wigg, Louisa, Mrs. Maybury, Mr. and Mrs. Barwood, Miss Alstone, Mr. and Mrs. Woodwell, Mr. Hurdle, Mr. and Mrs. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Denny, Mrs. Taylor and Miss Chapman, Mr. A. Crimmen, Mr. and Mrs. Eaton W. Moore, Mrs. Graham Powell and Miss Ella Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Waller, Mr. and Misses Debney, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Debney, Mr. and Mrs. Fowlie, Mr. Ben Hurran, Mr. and Mrs. Bray, Mr. and Mrs. Last, Mrs. Mocock and family. Two wreaths by the following theatrical agents—Mr. E. de Vere, Mr. F. Higham, Mr. George Sinclair, Mr. W. Oliver, Mr. G. Manning, Mr. G. H. Macdermott, Mr. Leon Victor, Mr. J. Nopoli, Mr. T. Prichard, Mr. H. Shaw, Miss Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. F. Smith, Mr. Mills. Southwold Corporation staff, Mr. W. A. Clingo, Mr. J. Page, Mr. J. Baxter, staff at Corn Exchange Tavern, male staff at the York Hotel, female staff at the York Hotel, staff at Finch Lane. The service was performed by the vicar (Rev. C. H. Sutton), who journeyed a long distance to be present, and the curate, Rev. Young. The whole of the shops and private residences bore evidences of mourning. Mr. Robt. John Allen was the undertaker.

THETFORD UNION TENDERS.—The following tenders have been accepted by the Thetford Board of Guardians:—Thetford district: Flour 11d. per stone, Mr. Jillings; mutton 6d., Mr. Beales. Methold district: Flour 11d., Mr. Jillings; mutton, 6d., Mr. Pratt. Workhouse: Flour 10d., Mr. Jillings; beef 6½d., mutton, 6½d., suet 4d., bacon 5d., Mr. Beales; milk 1½d., butter, 1s. 5d., Mr. Jillings; coal 17s. 5d., engine coal 17s. 7d., Messrs. Corler and Son.

THETFORD: PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.—The annual prize meeting at the Board Schools was held on Friday. The proceedings commenced at the Infants' School, Mr. S. Oldman, jun., presiding. There were 95 prize books, etc., purchased from the old infants' school fund. The prizes were then distributed by Mr. Oldman, jun. At the Girls' School, Mr. Oldman again presided, and was pleased to find 11 girls who had made the full attendances, and he hoped this would stimulate the others. At the Boys' school, Mr. Oldman, sen., presided. Here there were 120 splendid prize volumes given by the Board, supplemented by £1 by Mr. J. Vavasseur, of Kilverstone. Here there were 14 boys who had made the full attendances, and 120 who had made over 400. Cheers were given for the donors of prizes, the teachers, the Board, and others, and concluding with the best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

THETFORD ASSISTANT OVERSEERSHIP: RESULT OF THE POLL.—The poll at St. Mary's, on Friday, for an assistant overseer, resulted in the election of Mr. W. Hall by 48 votes against 37 recorded for Mr. T. Bradshaw. A vestry meeting was held at St. Peter's, on Friday evening, for the purpose of accepting the resignation of Mr. W. Cocker as assistant overseer. The Rev. J. P. Watts presided, and the vestry was crowded. The rector read the resignation, dated December 8th, and Mr. Catchpole read a letter to him as overseer, upon which he freely criticised the writer, and also endeavoured to explain the state of affairs, but he was frequently interrupted in the most indignant manner by Mr. Cocker.—Mr. Cocker said the borough levies were all met before he left the town; but Mr. Oldman, jun., as a Councillor, denied this assertion.—Mr. Catchpole said there was at least £273 short somewhere. (Shame.)—Mr. Cocker's resignation was eventually accepted unanimously, and for the vacancy Mr. G. Gathercole applied in writing. He was proposed by Mr. Catchpole and seconded by Mr. Tilley.—Mr. Rush proposed a Mr. Hall.—Mr. Gathercole being chosen, Mr. Cocker then demanded a poll for Hall, but the meeting would not have it, and ultimately Mr. Rush withdrew his proposition, and Mr. Gathercole was declared elected.—It was resolved that in future the assistant overseer pay all sums of £5 into the bank as collected, and show the receipt to one of the overseers.—Mr. Gathercole agreed to do this.—After a vote of thanks had been given to the Chairman, Mr. Cocker continued his defiant action, and even began to abuse a local reporter. The discussion was of an animated character.

WICKHAM MARKET UNION CONTRACTS.—The following contracts were accepted at the Board on Monday:—Flour, Mr. W. Cooper, Letheringham, 11d. per stone; ditto, Mr. E. H Warmoll, Knoddishall, 1s. per stone; bread, Mr. Geo. Hill, Wickham Market, 7s. 7d. per cwt.; buns, ditto, 8d. per doz; cake, ditto, 4d. per lb.; beef, Mr. J. Brownsord, Framlingham, 54s. per cwt.; mutton, ditto, 8d. per stone; cheese, Mr. J. Percival, London, 42s. per cwt.; margarine, ditto, 5½d. per lb.

WOODBRIDGE: BAGATELLE CONTEST.—A bagatelle handicap, in which 20 members of the Seckford Reading Room and Social Club, Woodbridge, have been taking part, has just been concluded, the prize-winners being:—1st, Mr. T. W. Scrutton; 2nd, Mr. A. Barrell; 3rd, Mr. A. Blewett.

WOODBRIDGE GOLF CLUB.—The final tie for the monthly medal (presented by the Captain, Mr. E. Dudley) took place on Monday, with the following result:—Mr. A. Morley 79 net, Mr. F. J. W. Wood 82, Mr. H. A. Barthorp 86, Sir R. Musgrave, 87, Major R. King 88, Major Howey 92, Capt. Pole-Soppitt 93, Dr. G. C. Edwardes-Ker 93, Major Larken 93, Rear-Admiral Theobald 95. The final for Mrs. Hicks's prize for ladies was played on Thursday, when the following scores were made:—Miss J. Hewitson 57, Miss Carthew 58, Miss Soppitt 59, Miss B. Grimwood 61, Miss E. Carthew 68.

WOODBRIDGE VOLUNTEERS.—On Friday evening the Christmas prizes given by the tradesmen of Woodbridge and other friends were distributed to the members of E Company, 1st V.B. Suffolk Regiment, at the Drill Hall, by the commanding officer (Capt. L. W. Hayward), who was supported by Major H. C. Edwards, V.D., Mr. Carthew, C.C., Mr. John Loder, Mr. Geo. E. Walker, Mr. John Arnott, Mr. A. S. Betts, Mr. A. J. Hayward, Mr. E. Branford, and others. The hall was prettily decorated by Sergt.-Instructor C. Smith. After the distribution, Major Edwards proposed "The health of the Commanding Officer," and congratulated him on his promotion to the Captaincy. The toast was drunk with musical honours, and hearty cheers were given for Captain and Mrs. Hayward. In responding, Capt. Hayward said the shooting percentage of the Company was the highest on record under the last regulations, and 34 points above the average of the Battalion for the year, and he hoped that under the new regulations every member of the Company would do his utmost to maintain their present position. The toast of "The Donors" was enthusiastically received, and responded to by Mr. Carthew, Mr. J. Loder, and Major H. C. Edwards. The remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner, songs being contributed by Sergt. G. Ling, Corpl. W. Booth, Privates Pulford and A. Sheldrake. The Woodbridge Company of Handbell Ringers gave several touches on their bells in capital style, and Colour-Sergt. W. M. Braham and Prvt Hatfield favoured the company with recitations.

WOODBRIDGE: OLD ST. MARY'S v. WIVENHOE.—This match was played on Boxing Day on the Grammar School Ground, Woodbridge, by permission of the Seckford Governors, and resulted in a win for the visitors by three goals to two. Wivenhoe won the toss, and after about three minutes' play Grainger scored the first goal for the visitors. Mid-field play followed for some time till at length Grainger, after a good run, scored the second point. From this up till half-time the homesters had much the best of the game, and just before the whistle sounded Stephenson scored from a scrimmage. Half-time score:—Wivenhoe, 2; Old St. Mary's, 1. Upon the game being re-started Old St. Mary's pressed considerably for some time, but at length the visitors' right wing broke away, and Inman, in trying to clear, handled, for which a penalty kick was given, from which they scored their third and last goal. This fairly woke up the homesters, and from a scrimmage in front of goal the ball was rushed through. After this Old St. Mary's had all the best of the game, but could not get on even terms with the visitors. For the homesters the brothers Luard, Smith, Kent, and Mumford played well, while for the visitors Grainger and the backs were the pick of the team. Teams:—Old St. Mary's: E. Cutting, goal; G. E. Luard and C. Inman, backs; H. Cutting, F. Luard, and N. G. Mumford, half-backs; J. T. Smith and F. R. Kent, right; S. Dudley, centre; E. Stephenson and A. E. Garnham, left. Wivenhoe: W. Silverton, goal; W. Tabor and A. Woods, backs; F. Grainger (sub.), A. Simmons, and C. Pitt, half-backs; Turner and W. M. Blake, right; R. Brown, centre; J. Nicolls (capt) and R. Crosby, left. Referee—Mr. F. W. Amer.

WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—At the last meeting of this Board on Thursday Mr. W. P. T. Phillips, presiding, Mr. D. Barrows proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for the valuable services he had rendered to the Board during the past year.—Mr. A. S. Fisk seconded, and expressed a hope that Mr. Phillips would again be chairman.—The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Phillips, in returning thanks, said it had been a great pleasure to him to preside over their meetings. He had always endeavoured to get through the business as quickly as it was possible to do consistent with efficiency, whilst with regard to Mr. Fisk's remarks Mr. Phillips observed that if it should please the new body to put him in a similar position he should have pleasure in accepting the post. The Chairman concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. D. Burrows and Mr. Joseph Smith, for their services as vice-chairmen.—Mr. Burrows, in acknowledging the vote, said he hoped that Mr. Joseph Smith would soon be fully recovered from his serious accident. Mr. Geo. E. Walker, the clerk, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the diligence and punctuality he had shown in discharging the various duties of his office. A similar compliment was paid to the relieving officers (Mr. G. H. G Bartlett, Mr. Wm. Creasy, and Mr. A. Hayward), and to Mr. and Mrs. Fincham (master and matron), and the other officers of Nacton Workhouse. There were 101 inmates in the Workhouse, 103 this week, and 95 in the corresponding week last year. The expenditure for out-relief the previous week amounted to £60 3s. 4½d. distributed amongst 682 persons, as against £61 10s 9½d. and 732 respectively last year. Mr. J. Fincham reported that the inmates of the Workhouse desired to thank the Guardians for providing Christmas fare, and the following donors of gifts:—Mrs. Alexander, Christmas letters; Mr. and Mrs. Webster Adams and the Rev. F. D. Browne, tea, tobacco, sweets, and oranges; Capt. R. J. Carthew, illustrated papers and magazines; Miss Kathleen Carthew, toys and sweets; Mr. J. B. Hart, half-barrel ale, and half-dozen port wine; Rev. Watson, tea and tobacco; Capt. E. G. Pretyman, evergreens, &c., for decorations.

A Choice Present.
A Choice Present.
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
In 3 lb. and 10 lb. Tins, all Prices.
OF LEADING GROCERS EVERYWHERE.

HIGH-CLASS MAZAWATTEE COFFEE.
HIGH-CLASS MAZAWATTEE COFFEE.
HIGH-CLASS MAZAWATTEE COFFEE.
HIGH-CLASS MAZAWATTEE COFFEE.
HIGH-CLASS MAZAWATTEE COFFEE.
At 1/4, 1/6, 1/8, and 2/- per lb. Of Leading Grocers.

JOHN BURNS' REMEDY FOR AMERICAN CORRUPTION.

At St. Louis, John Burns, addressing an immense audience, opened with some caustic criticisms on the condition of trade in the United States, and then denounced the corruption so universal in American municipal life. It was a standing disgrace to them as a nation, he said. "The causes which have led to such a disparity as is shown in this country in the conditions under which the rich and poor live," he added, "have been brought about by over-production and satanic selfishness. Your gigantic monopolies have produced both Vanderbilts and vagrants. Your financial men, your currency conjurers, are perpetually kicking up a dust to blind workmen to the true situation." In concluding his address, he suggested that the most effective remedy for the present state of affairs would be socialism pure and simple.

DUNVILLE'S OLD IRISH WHISKY is recommended by the medical profession in preference to French Brandy. They hold the largest stock of Whisky in the world. Supplied in casks and cases for home use and exportation. Quotations on application to Dunville and Co., Limited, Royal Irish Distilleries, Belfast.

MUSIC AND DRAMA IN SUFFOLK.

"The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" at the Ipswich Lyceum has drawn good houses, and is on the whole well acted by Mr. Latham's Company. The representation, however, shows what an immense amount of vitality was given to the play by the strong personality of Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and we doubt but for this actress if the success the piece has achieved would have been otherwise secured. Miss Cynthia Brooke gives a rendering of the character of Paula Tanqueray after Mrs. Campbell's style. Mr. C. A. Smith and Mr. R. G Legge are respectively Aubrey Tanqueray and Caley Drummle, but neither make so much of the parts as were made by the London exponents. Miss Marjorie Griffiths is distinctly good as Lady Orreyed. The lady who plays Ellean does not look like a young girl of 19; the remaining characters are suitably filled. A matinee will be given to-day at 2.30, and the last performance this evening. The piece is over the heads of the gallery, but this should not be made the excuse by them for indulging in idiotic laughter at situations they cannot understand.

On Monday, December 31st, and two succeeding nights, will take place the first performances of a new musical comedy, entitled "Dorcas." It will be interesting to be present at a new piece. The last new play produced at the Lyceum was "The Broken Melody," which has since been played in London, all the principal towns, and is shortly to be sent to America. The piece, it will be rembered, is more or less written round Mr. Van Biene and his 'cello.

"The New Boy" for the last three nights of next week, and "Charley's Aunt" the following week, will provide entertainment for those Lyceum patrons whose dramatic education does not reach beyond farce, and, fortunately, in these two plays we have farcical comedy in its best form.

Mr. Ben Greet has produced "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with great *eclat* at Norwich, and will bring the production on to the Lyceum for the week of January 14th. The daily Norwich morning paper of Thursday says, "The most elaborate production seen on the local stage is a correct description of the performance given at the theatre by Mr. Ben Greet and his excellent Company. Playgoers have learnt, by past experience, to look for good things at the popular comedian's hands, and have never been disappointed." The *Norfolk Daily Standard* says, "Mr. Ben Greet has provided a magnificent treat for the public, for the ordinary playgoer as well as the student of the Bard of Avon in his brightest mood." Mr. Greet's is one of the most popular companies visiting Ipswich, and our local playgoers appear to have a treat in store for them.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH AT EYE.

On Friday night about half-past eight, as Mr. John Judson, the well-known engine driver on the Mellis and Eye Railway was going home across the moors, he found a white paper parcel lying near the foot-bridge which carries pedestrians from the moors into Alderman Gedny's field. His curiosity being aroused he cast the light of his lantern around the spot, and to his great horror he discovered what he thought to be the body of a dead man, lying in the ditch, which was full of water and mud, with his head just resting upon some weeds. Mr. Judson hastened back to the town, a distance of about a quarter of a mile, to give the alarm and procure assistance. Sergt. Taylor, with a constable and several other persons were quickly upon the spot, and with difficulty the poor man was rescued from his perilous position. Amongst those who rendered valuable aid to the police were Mr. H. W. Cullum, jun., Mr. A. Betts and Mr. O. Everson. The man was found to be alive, although totally unconscious. He was laid upon a gate and carried up Moor Hall Causeway, as far as Mr. Henry Hines's, in Lowgate Street, where a handcart was requisitioned, and in this he was taken to the Crown Inn, the police summoning Dr. Wright *en route*. No time was lost in getting the man to bed and applying restoratives, which fortunately were successful about ten o'clock. Doctor Wright and his patient then recognised each other as old acquaintances, and it turned out that the poor fellow who had had such a miraculous escape from death was Mr. Robert Tyler, a native of Stoke Ash, aged 69 years, who up to Michaelmas, 1893, had lived in that parish all his life, and worked upon one farm for more then fifty years. At the time mentioned Tyler went to live with his son, a small farmer at Bressingfield, Norfolk. Tyler's own version of the affair is that having received an invitation to spend Christmas with a friend at Stoke Ash, he was on his way thither by the nearest route. In passing through Eye he called at the Queen's Head Inn, which he left about six o'clock, when it was very dark and boisterous, and that when crossing the bridge referred to he fell into the ditch, where he lay shouting and struggling until he became unconscious. A word of praise should be said for the police for their promptness in the matter, and for others who rendered assistance; also Mrs. Church, landlady of the Crown Inn, for the care and attention she bestowed on the man. On Sunday, Tyler was reported to have almost recovered his usual good health.

PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The asterisk denotes the persons elected.

FRESSINGFIELD.

The polling for District Councillors resulted as follows:—*George Frederick Goldspink, farmer, 71; *Isaac Goodwin, farmer, 52; *James H. Etheridge, 47; Elijah Scoggins, tailor, 40; Caleb Rivett, farmer, 38; George Whatling, farmer, 21. There were two spoiled ballot papers, and eleven illiterate voters.

ARDLEIGH.

At the first meeting of the Council the vicar (Rev. Greville Hales) was unanimously elected chairman outside the Council, and Mr. W. Barnett vice-chairman.

GEDDING.

The Rev. J. Sidney Boucher (rector) has been chosen chairman of the parish meeting. The contest for District Councillor resulted as follows:—*Rev. J. Sidney Boucher, 11; S. Scarffe, labourer, from Combs, 1.

ELMSWELL.

The Parish Council met on Friday evening. Mrs. D. W. Collen was elected to fill a casual vacancy on the Council. The question of the charities was under discussion, and a Committee was appointed to further investigate the subject, and to invite any person possessing any knowledge of the bequests to assist the Committee.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION.

The Parish Council election at Little Broughton, in the Cockermouth Union of Cumberland, produced a most extraordinary result. No less than 33 candidates tied with their three votes each for the eighth, ninth, and tenth places on the Council. The presiding officer at the election has returned the whole of the 14 candidates for the 10 seats, declaring that it was his duty to do so.

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The following persons have been nominated as Rural District Councillors for those parishes in the Hartismere Rural District where there was a failure to elect in the first instance:—Aspall, John Garnish Freeman; Oakley, Benjamin O. Gedny; Stuston, Robert Brooks Clarke; Thornham Magna, Edward H. Warren; Thornham Parva, Edward Symonds; Wyverstone, Arthur F. Boughton and Rev. R. N. Sanderson. As only one Councillor is required for Wyverstone, a contest will take place, unless one of the nominees withdraw.

ORFORD.

To the satisfaction of the parish the Rev. E. M. Scott has accepted the post of chairman to the Parish Council.

SUDBOURNE.

Here muddle still ensues, and the "Radical" feature so early established does not yet produce a good "trunk." Messrs. Western and Rackham failed to take the declaration, and Mr. David Markhem has since withdrawn. Messrs. Frost and Keer were elected to fill vacancies, but Mr. Keer declined, hence the Councill is not yet complete. Mr. T. C. H. Newland was offered the clerkship, but he also declined. Sudbourne already finds "Rare doings in our parish." Thanks to whom? We won't mention.

RETURNING OFFICERS' FEES.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Now that the contested elections are over, it may not be uninteresting to know who has had to pay the piper. It is now generally acknowledged that the scale framed by the County Council has proved insufficient to cover the actual disbursements of the returning officers, so that it appears they have not only had to work for nothing, but to perform responsible duties at an actual loss to themselves. It may be asked why did clerks to Guardians and Local Boards undertake posts which they were well aware beforehand would entail personal loss? Well, Sir, it is not for an outsider to answer that query. Possibly, indeed most probably, they did so to prevent their respective Boards from being put to the trouble of finding a responsible person to carry out responsible duties for nothing, and to supplement out of his own pocket the meagre sum allowed for the conduct of an election. Whatever their motives, however, those gentlemen, with more public spirit than I think the occasion demanded, took over the position, and have earned and no doubt obtained the thanks of their various Boards for so doing. It has been insinuated in some quarters that the returning officers, with a view to make it appear that the elections have been conducted at a personal loss, have spent their money freely. Such a suggestion, however, carries with it its own refutation, for it must be patent to anybody that no man would be likely to incur expense in order to prove a fact which could readily be substantiated by other and less costly means. What, however, is more likely the case is that the officials in question, having consented to act, naturally refused to run the risk, by incompetent work, of invalidating the elections and incurring the heavy penalty imposed for any failure on their part to carry out the duties devolving on them. If any further proof of the inadequacy of the scale is required, it is supplied by your daily contemporary, which having frequently urged the County Council to stand by their allowances, now admits that it will be found that the scale was cut too low. There is no doubt whatever that the framers of that scale, with a very laudable desire to keep down expenses, issued one which they thought reasonable to all parties; but the fact remains that a grave injustice has been done, and I would urge that the County Council should face the matter squarely, and deal even with officials in the same equitable manner as the Council themselves would like to be treated were their respective positions revered.—I am, &c.,

FAIR PLAY.

Hadleigh.

A Perfect New Year's Present.
A Perfect New Year's Present.
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
Of Specially-appointed
MAZAWATTEE AGENTS.

SALES BY AUCTION.

By Messrs. GARROD, TURNER and SON.

IPSWICH.
TOWN PROPERTIES.

GARROD TURNER, and SON will SELL by AUCTION, at the Great White Horse Hotel, Ipswich, on THURSDAY NEXT, 3rd January, 1895, at 7 o'clock p.m.

By direction of the Representatives of Mr. W. Budden, deceased.

A detached PAIR of RESIDENCES, with Gardens, known as "Riverside Villas," Nos. 86 and 88, New Cut West, in the parish of St. Peter. Let at rentals amounting to £42 per annum.
Solicitors: Messrs. BIRKETT and RIDLEY, 24, Museum Street, Ipswich.

By Direction of the Administrator of Miss S. M. Catchpole, deceased.

A convenient detached SMALL RESIDENCE, known as Bank Lodge, Smart Street, Foundation Street, as lately occupied by Miss Catchpole. Possession on completion of purchase.
Solicitors: Messrs. WESTHORP, COBBOLD, and WARD, 32, Museum Street, Ipswich.

Particulars may be had of the respective Solicitors, and of the Auctioneers, 1, Old Butter Market, Ipswich.

By Messrs. SPURLING and SONS.

IPSWICH SALE YARD.
SPURLING and SONS'

SALES by AUCTION EVERY TUESDAY.
Fat and Store Cattle, Sheep and Swine, Hay, &c., commencing with Store Sheep and Swine at 12 o'clock.
Horses and Dead Stock every Fortnight at 1.30.
Entries solicited, to be sent to the AUCTIONEERS, 81, Princes Street, Ipswich.

TUESDAY NEXT.
IPSWICH SALE YARD.
SPURLING and SONS
Will SELL by AUCTION, at 1.30 p.m.,
15 HORSES;
And at One p.m. a
LOAD of Capital WHEAT STRAW, in Lots of 10 bundles, 2½ Tons Good Park Hay.
Entries to be sent to the AUCTIONEERS, 81, Princes Street, Ipswich, not later than 12 o'clock on Monday.

IPSWICH SALE YARD.
SPURLING and SONS
BEG to announce that Mr. ALFRED PRESTON, of Worlingworth, will assist at their weekly Sales of Stock on and after 1st January, 1895.

By Messrs. W. ARNOTT and SON.

GREEN BANK, GRUNDISBURGH,
Near WOODBRIDGE.
W. ARNOTT and SON
Are instructed by the Representatives of James Thomas, Esq., deceased, to SELL by AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, the 2nd January, 1895, at 11 o'clock a.m. punctually, on the premises (where a tent will be provided),

ALL the valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Bedding, and other effects of the said deceased, comprising—Capital dining and drawing-room chairs, sofas and tables, chimney and pier glasses, pair of handsome antique inlaid satin-wood card tables, handsome antique bracket striking clock, Cottage Pianoforte, glass chandelier, Brussels carpets, mahogany escritoire and bookcase, hall furniture, half-tester and other bedsteads, capital feather beds, bolsters, and pillows, spring mattresses, blankets, counterpanes, chests of drawers, washing stands, tables, dressing glasses, glass, china, kitchen articles, neat pony phaeton, and numerous other effects.
Catalogues of the AUCTIONEERS, Woodbridge.

SCALE OF
ADVERTISING CHARGES.
CHEAP PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Situations Wanted.	Partnerships Wanted or Offered.
Situations Vacant.	Miscellaneous Wants.
Apartments Wanted.	Articles Lost or Found.
Apartments to be Let.	Businesses for Sale.

Houses, Shops, Offices, Public Houses, &c., to be Let or Sold. Specific Articles for Sale by Private Contract (not appertaining to Business).
Advertisements of this class are inserted at a uniform rate of

TWOPENCE PER LINE

per Insertion if ordered for three or more Insertions. This cheap scale is exclusively confined to Advertisements which are paid for previous to Insertion. If not prepaid they will be charged the Ordinary Rates.

CONTINUED TRADE ADVERTISEMENTS.
Tradesmen advertising in the *Journal* have the advantage of increased business for a very small outlay.

TO ADVERTISERS.

☞ *Care should be taken to select a proper Address for replies to advertisements, as Letters addressed to the Post Office in Initials or Fictitious Names are now sent to the Returned Letter Office. If Initials are used, the name and address, or address only, of some person who would take charge of the letters should be added.*

LETTERS are received at the Chief and Branch Offices of the *Journal* Free of Charge; but if it is desired that they be sent by post, stamps for postage should be enclosed with order.

Situations Vacant.

AGENTS Wanted for the Sale of Native Guano, the best and cheapest Manure for all farm and garden crops.—The Native Guano Company, Limited, 29, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London, E.C.

GENERAL Servant, about 18.—Apply, Mrs. Bucke, Brewery Inn, Brook Street, Ipswich.

WANTED, for January 8th, good Plain Cook, age 30, wages £20; for January 28th, good Nurse, wages £18; also two good Cooks, Generals, and one Nurse-Housemaid.—Supt., 7, Elm Grove, Wimbledon, Surrey.

Situations Wanted.

AS Coachman, thoroughly experienced; age 22; single or pair; can teach riding; good references.—Apply, George Henrywood, Great Harrowden Hall, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

BAILIFF, experienced in Farming and Management of Stock, seeks an appointment; good references.—Address, C.W., 1, Oxford Terrace, Cambridge.

Land, Houses, &c.

GRASS FARMS, ARABLE FARMS, ESTATES —Rent, from 5s. Acre; prices from £7 Acre Monthly List, 1,500 Farms, 2d.—Rutters, 5, New Bridge Street, London.

For Sale.

BEAM Scales and Weights, ½oz. to 7lbs., 25s.; large Sausage Machine, 25s., suit butcher.—Hazleton, Dog's Head Street, Ipswich.

FOR House and Laundry.—Ironing Blankets, 5 feet in length (disused printer's blankets), post free, 1s. 6d., wonderful value.—S. Lowe, Portwood, Stockport.

GREAT BARGAINS.—Very fine American Organ, in walnut case, seven stops, price £8 15s.; fine-tone Pianoforte, £10 10s.; fine old Walnut Bureau; very superior Mahogany Chest of Drawers; several good Dining Tables; Saddle Bag and Leather Suites.—Jeffrey, Old Corner Shop, Queen and Friar's Streets, Ipswich.

GALVANISED CORRUGATED ROOFING SHEETS.
Stock of slightly defective Sheets, practically as good as new, 6ft. by 27in., at 1s. 2d. each, other sizes in proportion. Dutch Barns, 40 yards by 9 yards, 50s. per lineal yard, fixed complete. Estimates for Iron Roofs, Fencing, Hurdles, etc. Galvanized Wire Netting.—Walker Bros., Staffordshire Galvanizing Works, Walsall.

HAY! Hay! Straw.—J. Keevil, Brixton Granaries, S.W. (Established 1834), is cash buyer of above, any quantity. Presses, saving third rail rate, lent; 1,000 horses fed daily. Bankers, London and County. Old Oats, 304lbs. on rail 13s.; bran 65s. ton.

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RED DEAL BALTIC FIREWOOD, cut under cover and always dry.
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TO Engine Owners and Contractors.—For Sale, a first-class 8-horse gear Traction Engine by Holmes and Son, Norwich (modern type, and is very economical). It is fitted with two speeds, compensating gear, hauling drum and wire rope, water-lifter and heater. Is now in thorough repair. The fire-box is quite new and of the best Low Moor Iron, is thickly studded with stays; the tube plate is securely held by a strong tubular stay. The boiler is very strong—the shell plates are 7-16ths in thickness. The road wheels are wrought iron and good width. Cylinder has been re-bored and slides re-surfaced; all the bearings are massive and are scarcely worn. The boiler has been re-lagged with wood and cased with sheet iron. The engine is neatly painted and varnished, and is now ready for work.—Apply, E. Youngs and Co., The Waveney Iron Works, Diss.

Business Cards.

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BILLIARDS or Bagatelles.—All those requiring New or Secondhand Tables, Requisites, or Billiard Work done should, before going elsewhere, send for new price list, cloths and rubber cushion samples, to Hennig Bros., 29, High Street, Bloomsbury, London, W.C. Est. 1862

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IF you have not yet done so, get your Clothing of D. Gunn and Co., Tailors, 2, Dial Lane, Ipswich. The best value in the trade for cash.

J. E. Stammers and Son, House Furnishers, 8, 10, and 12, Tacket Street, Ipswich. Furniture of every description; Pianos, American Organs, Perambulators, and Mail Carts, at lowest prices for cash, or supplied on payment of Deposit and easy Instalments. Second-hand Furniture bought for cash, or exchanged for New.

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MARRIED Ladies.—Information of Priceless Value (Free); send stamped envelope.—Mrs. Lawrence, 4, Bradley Street, Sheffield. (Name this paper.)

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NOTE Papers, Best Value, 4½d., 7½d., 10½d. per Five Quires.
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Envelopes, Best Value, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d. per packet.
Envelopes, 1/5½, 1/11, 2/6, 2/11, 3/3 per 1,000. Please note the
Noted House for Note Papers, Smith's Suit-all, Ipswich.

ORTON'S Blended Lamp Oil is still taking the lead; give it a trial.—To be obtained at St. Lawrence Street, and A1, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

PIANOFORTES.—Constant supply of instruments by best makers, various prices; sale or hire.—Christie, 95, Fore Street, Ipswich.

AT BOTWOOD'S,
The Ipswich Carriage Show Rooms,
Carr Street.
"QUEEN" Gold Medal BROUGHAMS, and variety of first-class new and second-hand Carriages.—Works, Woodbridge Road.

TEA from 10d. to 2s. 4d. per lb.; no bonus nonsense; paper not weighed; no deception of any kind; try our 1s. 4d.—West End Tea Stores, 7, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

TO Executors.—Old Gold, Old Plate, Old Jewellery. Highest prices given; valuations for probate or family division.—R. D. and J. B. Fraser, Museum Street Buildings, Ipswich.

"THE Boy's Own Gun," fires bullets, shots, or darts; sure killer of birds, rabbits, &c. No powder or license required. Price 2s. 6d. each, carriage paid, from inventor, John Egglestone, Naturalist, Sunderland. 1,000 sold weekly.

WANTED, intending purchasers to inspect our Stock; it is large and varied, bought in the best markets, sold at reasonable profits; Tin, Iron, and Copper Ware a speciality; Galvanised and Enamelled Ware; Travelling Trunks, Bird Cages, Garden Lines, Household Ironmongery, Brushes and Brooms, Baskets, Mats, Glass and Earthenware, some special lines in this department; Oil Stoves, Paints, &c.—Note address—E. C. Ribbans, 114, 115, 117, Fore Street.

£20.—TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. See Illd. Guide (260 pages), 3d., "How to open a Cigar Store from £20 to £2,000."—Tobacconists' Outfitting Co. (Reg.), 186, Euston Road, London. Manager, Henry Myers. Established 1866. N.B.—Shop Fitters and Show Case Makers for all trades. Estimates Free.

5,000 Watches Wanted to Clean, at 2s. each. Mainsprings, 2s. 6d. All warranted one year. Watches can be sent by post or rail. Jewellery Repairs equally cheap, and done on the premises.—Candler, Watchmaker, 10, Carr Street, Ipswich.

Miscellaneous.

MARRIED Medical Man at seaside town receives two invalids or convalescents; terms according to requirements.—Address, M.D., *Ipswich Journal* Office.

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THE RATES of this Society are exceedingly moderate, and the Insured are free from all liability.
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Total Amount insured exceeds
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Norwich, December 25th, 1894.

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Ladies' & Gentlemen's Wearing Apparel
of all kinds, including
LINEN, CLOTHING, BOOTS, &c., purchased at
HIGHEST PRICES
BY
Mrs. W. ROBERTS,
56, UPPER ORWELL STREET, IPSWICH
Mrs. Roberts will remit same day for country parcel received. Ladies can also have Mrs. Roberts' personal attendance if desired.

Public Notices.

CHARITY COMMISSION.

In the matter of the Charity of William Small, being one of the Municipal Charities in the Borough of Eye in the County of Suffolk; and in the matter of "The Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 *to* 1894."

BY direction of the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, NOTICE is hereby given that an Order is proposed to be made by them after the expiration of one calendar month, to be computed from the first publication of this notice, establishing a SCHEME for the administration of the above-mentioned Charity.
Any objection to the proposed Order or suggestion thereon may be transmitted to the said Commissioners in writing within twenty-one days next after the first publication of this notice addressed to "The Secretary, Charity Commission, Whitehall, S.W."
Printed Copies of the Proposed Scheme may be inspected free of cost on each week day during a period of fifteen days from the first publication of this notice between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the office of the Town Clerk, Church Street, in the above-mentioned Borough, and between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Commissioners, where also copies may be purchased during the same period at the price of 3d. each, which may be remitted by Postal Order, crossed "Bank of England," or, if the amount be less than One Shilling, in penny postage stamps.
Dated this 21st day of December, 1894.
D. R. FEARON,
Secretary.

TO THE ELECTORS
OF THE
PARISH OF MELTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
I beg to thank you for the honour you have done me in returning me at the head of the poll as one of your representatives for both Parish and District Councils, assuring you it will be my earnest endeavour to serve you faithfully.
I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN COLLINS.
Wilford Lodge, Melton,
15th December, 1894.

IPSWICH LYCEUM.

NEXT WEEK'S ENGAGEMENTS.
MONDAY, Dec. 31st, for Three Nights,
The New Musical Comedy
"DORCAS."
By Messrs. Harry and E. A. Paulton,
Now being played with enormous success in America.
Full London Caste.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY
Mr. Weedon Grossmith's Company in the Great London Success,
"THE NEW BOY."
MATINEE, SATURDAY, at 2.30.
Prices, 6d. to 3s. 6d. Doors open at 7.30. Commence at 8. Carriages at 10.30. Booking at the Ancient House.

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TAVERN STREET, IPSWICH.

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THREE SHILLINGS A QUARTER.
Joint Subscriptions at reduced terms.
Visitors and temporary residents are admitted to Library, Reading-room, Chess and Draughts Rooms on payment of Two Shillings a month.
EDGAR H. DRUMMOND,
Secretary.

Evening Continuation Classes.
1894-5.

Preparatory Classes in
AMBULANCE WORK
Will be commenced on January 8th and 9th.
HIGHER GRADE CENTRE.—For Male Students, on Tuesdays, from 8.10 to 9.15 p.m.
Lecturer—W. F. Fryer, Esq., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Ed.
ST. MARY ELM'S CENTRE.—For Female Students, on Wednesdays, from 8.10 to 9.15 p.m.
Lecturer—S. S. Hoyland, Esq., M.R.C.S., Lond.
These Classes are open only to the Students who attend at least one of the other Classes at the Continuation Centres. A registration fee of 3d. must be paid, which will be returned to Students who register six hours' attendance before the close of the Session. Prizes and Certificates will be awarded by the Board on the result of the Examination at the end of the Session, and these certificates will entitle the holders to Free Admission in the following Session to the Ambulance (First Aid) Classes, held at the Argyle Street and Higher Grade Centres, in connection with the St. John Ambulance Association.
Names will be enrolled by the Principals of the Continuation Centres.
By Order,
J. HEPBURN HUME,
Clerk of the Board.
December 22nd, 1894.

FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE.

TENDERS are invited for supplying the College with Meat and Flour for the ensuing term. Tenders to be on the prescribed form, which may be had, with all information, from the Secretary, and to be delivered at the College before 11 o'clock on the morning of SATURDAY, the 5th January, 1895. The Governors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.
ACCOUNTS.—All accounts due from the College must be sent in on or before the 1st January, 1895.
W. T. BRUNGER,
Secretary.

IPSWICH UNION.

APPOINTMENT OF MASTER AND MATRON.

THE Guardians of this Union will shortly proceed to the election of a competent married couple to fill the offices of Master and Matron of St. Peter's Workhouse, Ipswich. The salary of the Master will be £80 per annum, and that of the Matron £40 per annum, with furnished apartments, washing, and an allowance of ten shillings per week each in lieu of rations.
The Master must be fully competent to keep the books and accounts, and perform all the duties required by the Orders of the Local Government Board. He will also be required to manage and superintend the discipline and employment of the Workhouse. He must devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office. Applications in the writing of the candidates, stating ages and present occupations, accompanied by recent testimonials, must reach me on or before the 8th day of January, 1895. Personally canvassing the Guardians is strictly prohibited.
By order,
A. F. VULLIAMY,
Clerk to the Guardians.
Ipswich,
21st December, 1894.

COALS.

BEST WALLSEND	26/-
B. & M.'S SELECTED SILKSTONES	24/-
SILKSTONES	23/-
BEST HOUSE NUTS	22/-
RIDDINGS BEST HOUSE	22/-
(Excellent for general purposes).	
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REPAYMENTS by arrangement, honourable and straightforward business guaranteed. TRADE BILLS discounted. DISTANCE no objection. Prospectus free.
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Cigarette Ditto,
Matchboxes,
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Tortoiseshell Ornaments,
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3	Ipswich, Properties	Garrod, Turner, & Son

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☞ *All communications intended for publication should be sent to* "THE EDITOR," *and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.*
Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Observance of this rule will facilitate publication.
It is requested that notice of forthcoming Meetings, Lectures, Concerts, &c., may be sent to the Head Office, with tickets of admission, in good time, so that proper arrangements for reporting them may be made.
On all matters relating to business, "THE MANAGER" *should be addressed.*
Letters containing advertisements sent for insertion should be marked on the outside "Advertisement Department."
HEAD OFFICE
MUSEUM STREET, IPSWICH.

The Ipswich Journal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29.

POLITICS IN 1894.

The year 1894 will long be remembered by the Liberal party as one of the most unlucky during the past two decades. It was ushered in under most depressing circumstances, for the Session of 1893, notwithstanding an autumn Session, had not concluded. Moreover, the House of Lords had rejected the Home Rule Bill, and not a mouse stirred in the constituencies. Then came the Horncastle election, which it was fondly hoped would be won by the Radicals on the head of the Parish Councils Bill. But Lord WILLOUGHBY scored even a bigger majority than Mr. STANHOPE. The poll at Accrington had shown a rising tide for the Conservatives, but in a rural district this was hardly expected. It is worth noticing also that Mr. TORR, the Radical candidate at Horncastle, refused to vote for the retention of the Irish members, an opinion which has more recently been adopted by Mr. MCEWAN in Edinburgh. In fact, it may be laid down, broadly and truly, that every bye-election of the year 1894 spoke with the same voice upon the action of the House of Lords. In strong Liberal seats the Unionist poll increased, while in some constituencies Liberal strongholds were captured. Of course, the retirement of Mr. GLADSTONE from public life was by far the most important political event in the year. The whole party situation was at once changed when the Old Parliamentary Hand threw up the sponge, and we are even now listening to the echoes of the lamentations which followed upon the announcement. When Mr. GLADSTONE left office it was recognised that Home Rule only awaited decent burial, and everything that has since happened confirms the fact. The legacy of a policy heavily mortgaged to numerous creditors was not a desirable bequest, but Lord ROSEBERY accepted it, amid the rapturous applause of a shepherdless flock. The spectacle of a peer leading a crusade against the House of Lords was ludicrous enough to the outside world, but the Liberal party seemed determined to have a peer-Premier, in spite of the logical objection of Mr. LABOUCHERE. We know now, from the history of the recess, what a complete failure the new cry of "Down with the House of Lords" has been, and how quickly dissipated to the winds has been the reputation of Lord ROSEBERY. The history of the bye-elections, which succeeded the appointment of the new Cabinet, was the first indication of the dissatisfaction of the country The safest seats were chosen, and yet nearly everywhere the Unionist party showed an increasingly strong following. England showed no sign of any conversion to Home Rule, while in Wales a majority of eight hundred and fifteen was reduced to two hundred and twenty-five. We need not dwell at any length upon the unfortunate *début* of the new Cabinet in the House, or on the first speeches of the Prime Minister. The world is now quite familiar with his aphorism about the "predominant partner," which is the only saying, perhaps, of the Premier which was quite clear and unimpeachable. He tried hard to wriggle out of it, but he has signally failed. The business of the Session practically resolved itself into the Budget, and nothing but the Budget. Other Bills were introduced, of course, but only in order to stop the mouths of the various factions which make up the composite majority of the Government. But a "democratic Budget," it was thought, would carry the country, and float the Government boat well into a popular port for the rest of the year. Strange to say, the Finance Act, with all its great changes in our system of taxation, seems to have lost rather than gained votes for the Government, an interesting commentary upon the folly of electioneering agents. As a matter of fact, the rural labourers probably know that any further taxation upon land is pretty sure to hit all classes dependent on agriculture, and certainly in Brigg the "democratic Budget" does not seem to have been a trump card. One episode of the recess must have been particularly galling to the Government. One of the attractions of Lord ROSEBERY as a leader was supposed to be his popularity with all sections of the Labour party, but the past year has been fruitful in disappointments in this respect. The Independent Labour party, with Mr. KEIR HARDIE, M.P., at its head, has determined to break with the Liberal party, and at the Leicester election the result of an Independent Labour candidate going to the poll was very nearly to defeat the representatives of official Liberalism. Besides this unpleasant reminder of schism in the ranks, there has been evidently a feeling abroad amongst the working classes that the policy of picking a quarrel with the House of Lords, overlaid as it is upon the original policy of Home Rule, is tantamount to blocking the road to all social reforms. What is the secret of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's steady hold on the Midland masses? Undoubtedly it is because he has always protested against Home Rule; primarily because it is unjust to English workmen; and, secondarily, because the time wasted upon it would be far better spent in practical legislation upon such points as temperance reform, old age pensions, and such-like measures. In the same way the Conservative leaders have made it clear in the country that they are absolutely free from any party embarrassments, and are quite prepared to go ahead along the line of least resistance. The Liberal party, on the other hand, are still chained to the millstone of Home Rule. The incident of the cheques, last September, was an unpleasant reminder that English money has been paying for Irish votes in Parliament for some time back, and the revelations of Lord TWEEDMOUTH's and Mr. GLADSTONE's generosity are still fresh in the recollection of the constituencies. It is hardly surprising, indeed, that the episodes of the past Session, together with the more recent events of the autumn recess, have brought about the present parlous condition of the Liberal party. As Mr. BALFOUR graphically puts it, the ice is cracking in all directions. Log-rolling, as a national policy for a historic party, has broken down ignominiously, and the blundering and bungling which has characterised the present Government has disgusted the country. It is now obvious that Lord ROSEBERY has never really driven the State coach. The reins have been held week about by different parties and various men, and there is no clear homogeneous policy before the country. Englishmen do not like this shifting of responsibility on the part of a Prime Minister, and if Lord ROSEBERY had been a little less of an Opportunist and a little more of a resolute leader he would have done better. Under his Government the country has not prospered. Trade and agriculture have been more depressed than ever during the past year, and there is no gleam of brightness on the horizon. It is hardly credible that the Government can continue to stick to office when an appeal to the country is so earnestly and obviously the desire of the great masses of the electors.

The Ancients and Beerhouses. There is nothing new under the sun. Many persons fancy that beerhouses are a modern institution. Never was a greater mistake; they existed long before the days of Moses. At the British Museum can be seen a Babylonian contract for the sale of a plot of land described as being adjacent to the beerhouse kept by two brothers called Sinabresu and Nurilian. This contract was executed about the year 2230 B.C.

Personal. The marriage arranged between Mr. Noel Corry, Grenadier Guards, and Miss Lloyd-Anstruther, is fixed to take place in London, on February 2nd.—Lady Elcho and her children left London on Friday in the P. and O. Company's steamer Bengal for Alexandria, Lord Elcho, M.P., joining the ship at Naples.—Captain and Mrs. Naylor Leyland are still suffering from typhoid fever, the member for Colchester rather more acutely than Mrs. Leyland.—Rear-Admiral Bedford, C.B., who is connected by marriage with one of the leading Ipswich families, has been made a K.C.B., in recognition of his services during the recent operations on the West Coast of Africa against the notorious Chief Nana.

The Veto Bill. Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., told us the other day that the Veto Bill is to occupy the first place in the programme of the coming Session, and a few days later Mr. Raper, one of the agents of the Alliance, speaking on the same Bill, told an audience at Chatham that he was a public-house purifier, not a public-house closer, and added that he wanted victuallers to be such in the true sense of the word. Everyone will agree with Mr. Raper, but, unfortunately, these aspirations of his are inconsistent with the provisions of the Direct Veto Bill as introduced by the Government already, and there is no reason to anticipate that the measure now promised will differ from its predecessor; in fact, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has more than once told us it will not differ.

Death of the Turkey.
A week ago she strutted proudly
Around the farmyard——
—And then the luckless turkey and many thousands of her sisters, brothers, cousins, and aunts were incontinently slain, cleaned, denuded of their plumage, decapitated, packed in boxes, crates, herring barrels, and sent by carriers, &c., to the great, greedy markets of Suffolk and adjoining counties. A few days ago full of life, and now——! Well, thanksgiving has arrived, and people must have turkeys, and death can only come once to turkeys as well as to men, and really the poultry dealers have behaved so handsomely to the corpses that any sensible turkey would prefer to pass into oblivion, or rather into the gastric region of some appreciative citizen, than to live a dull, commonplace life on some lonesome farm and die at last of inertia and indigestion.

Swine Fever. Unfortunately for breeders the slightly favourable returns showing a decrease in the number of fatal cases of swine fever have been replaced by an official announcement of an actual increase. Scotland, however, for the first time for many months, can boast a clean bill of health; yet this large increase in the deaths is most discouraging to those who have already suffered materially by the loss of the Christmas market. Doubt is generally expressed that the Board of Agriculture have ordered the slaughter of very many animals which did not suffer from fever at all, but from a disease the symptoms of which were similar. That the Departmental officials are not thoroughly satisfied with the course adopted is clear, inasmuch as they have removed all restrictions on the holding of markets and fairs for the sale of pigs at the very time when the returns show a decided increase in the prevalence of what has done duty for swine fever.

Poultry Farming. Suffolk agriculturists recently had their attention drawn to an industry which is frequently commended as a prospective source of income in depressed times, viz., the rearing of poultry. The show of dead fowls in connection with the great Smithfield Show, which has this year been held for the first time, has proved far more successful than even Sir Walter Gilbey and his coadjutors could have hoped. The object of the exhibition is to encourage farmers to increase their supply of table poultry, encourage improvement in the breeds of poultry, and the methods of feeding and fattening, and to give practical demonstration in the best methods of dressing fowls for market and table. Seeing that in 1893 we paid the enormous sum of £4,454,598 for foreign eggs and poultry, this affords strong evidence in favour of farmers devoting increased attention to the rooster as a means of aumenting their incomes.

Our Latest M.P. Healing Manor, the seat of Mr. J. Maunsell Richardson, the new member for the Brigg Division, is situate about five miles from Grimsby, and six from Brocklesbury Park, the seat of the Earl of Yarborough, whose mother, Lady Victoria, Mr. Richardson married. The mansion and grounds were purchased for £5,250 about six years ago by Mr. Richardson, the former owner, the Rev. Cecil Legard, well known in hunting circles, having removed to Cottesbrooke Rectory, Northants. Shortly after the completion of the purchase, Mr. Richardson bought a large area of adjacent land, at prices varying from £30 to £100 per acre, his purchases altogether amounting to upwards of £12,000. Healing Manor, has, since it was acquired by Mr. Richardson, been greatly enlarged and altered. It is now a fine country house in the half-timbered style of architecture, standing in tastefully laid out grounds of considerable extent, adorned with fine trees.

"Ten Little Nigger Boys." Lord Rosebery was very jubilant at Devonport over the fact that the reduction of his majority from forty to thirty-two was in no greater proportion than that of his predecessors in office between 1886 and the close of the year 1888. There was, however, a redeeming feature in the case of his predecessors; a majority of 118 can bear some encroachment, and it was still 70 at the dissolution of Parliament in 1892. But a present majority of 32 does not leave much room for wear and tear, and given time there is every appearance of its being reduced to the position of the "Ten little nigger boys." The same process appears to be going on in the House of Lords, according to the *Westminster Gazette*, which says:—"If Liberals, on being made peers, do not turn Tories, their sons usually do. The new Lord Swansea, we have authority for stating, will ally himself with the Conservative party on taking his seat in the Upper House. That will bring Lord Rosebery's 30 Liberal peers down to 29. Lord Sandhurst has been appointed Governor of Bombay, so there are now 28. At this rate there will soon be none."

Testimonials. A "Private Secretary" has written to the *Times* to protest against the growing practice of giving testimonia's—a practice which he objects to as a nuisance and a heavy tax upon one's resources. Doubtless the writer has cause to grumble—at all events it is his privilege—and we must say that there is a tendency to carry testimonial-giving to extremes. True, England still expects her sons to do their duty, but it is only just to state that some do their duty more nobly than others and deserve the recognition of their fellows. But the question arises who are to be the censors, and where is the line to be drawn? For our own part we postively fail to see the distinguishing mark, while at the same time admitting that because a man discharges a duty faithfully it is no substantial reason why he should be the recipient of especial favours. Others besides "Private Secretary" have objected to the practice, and doubtless others will follow his example; but after all good, honest, enthusiastic service in any particular cause must and will be testimonialised.

Income-tax. In view of the changes which followed the passing of the last Budget, the Board of Agriculture have revised and issued the Memorandum prepared by the Board of Inland Revenue and originally published in 1893, directing the attention of persons occupying land for husbandry purposes only to their statutory rights in regard to assessments made upon them to Income-tax. By the exercise of the option of being dealt with according to the rules of Schedule D of the Income-tax Acts, occupiers of land for the purpose of husbandry only who have made no profits therefrom on the average of the three years preceding the year of assessment, or whose aggregate income from every source does not exceed £160 a year, are still able to avoid assessment respecting such occupation, provided, of course, that the returns they made on the form supplied to them by the Surveyor of Taxes for assessment under Schedule D are regarded as satisfactory by the Commissioners. In such cases no appeal to the Commissioners is requisite, since no assessment is made. Where assessments are made under Schedule B, the law provides ample means of obtaining relief if, at the end of the year, the farmer has made no profits, or if his profits have fallen short of the sum assessed, but by reason of the fact that the Commissioners of Taxes require the production of accounts before they issue a certificate for repayment, the process is somewhat troublesome to the farmer. It is for this reason that the making of a return for assessment under Schedule D would in many cases be a simpler and more advantageous proceeding. In any case of difficulty arising under any of the heads mentioned in the Memorandum, the Board of Agriculture recommend that application for advice and assistance should be at once made to the local Surveyor of Taxes.

Annual Disasters. It is a painful reflection that the anniversary of the great Christian festival is often darkened by the presence of disaster such as that which occurred in Cheshire on Saturday last. Unfortunately Christmas, 1894, was doubly overcast by a terrible storm at sea as well as on land, loss of life, destruction of property, and general devastation following in its train. For many years now past some great catastrophe has carried sorrow into many homes at this period of the year, and especially is this applicable to our railway systems, as is seen from a glance at the records since that fatal 29th December, 1879, when a Scotch express was hurled over the Tay Bridge, and 74 lives were, without warning, cast into a watery grave. Next in point of gravity was the accident at Shipton, near Oxford, on a Christmas Eve 20 years ago, when a train fell over an embankment, resulting in the loss of 34 lives, and an aggregate of 60 or 70 persons being more or less injured. Again, on Christmas Eve, seven years later, an express train ran into a goods train at Slough, 12 people being killed. The accident to a Lowestoft train at Barnby three years ago also happened on Christmas Eve. On the 24th December, 1877, at Holbeck, Leeds, two trains collided, and a couple of people were killed; while in the preceding December, two days off Christmas, a Manchester express, whilst in a siding at Hitchin, came into violent contact with a goods train, and five persons lost their lives. Perhaps, however, the accident at Taunton, in Somersetshire, in November, 1890, was the saddest of all, with the exception of that at Tay Bridge, when a number of travellers who had come all the way from South Africa to spend their Christmas holidays in their native land were killed when practically in sight of home. There is, however, one consoling feature about the Chelford calamity: as far as has yet been ascertained, there appears to have been no culpable negligence on the part of the London and North Western officials; neither was it due to an overworked signalman as in the case of the melancholy disaster at Thirsk a couple of years ago.

Voluntary Schools. Amid the multitude of counsellors there is sometimes wisdom; and at last a scheme calculated to meet the views of a large section of people on a most debateable question is put forward by Mr. George A. Spottiswoode, of 3, Cadogan Square, S.W., with the view of meeting the religious difficulty in all public elementary schools and for affording adequate financial relief to voluntary schools. Under this scheme a group of schools may be included and controlled by one Board of Management, and no attempt is made to ignore the "conscience clause." For the purposes of this arrangement the expenditure of a School Board is classified; and any denominational school, the building charge of which is wholly supplied from endowments, voluntary subscriptions or the like, shall be entitled in consideration of the instruction afforded in secular subjects to receive in any year, on application in writing to the School Board of the district, for every child in attendance in the last preceding year, a sum not exceeding the average education charge for every child in the Board Schools of the same district for that year. If satisfactory proof is given to the Education Department that the children so placed under denominational control have, during a period of three years, not belonged to the nomination represented, power is provided for the re-transferrence to the School Board. The representative character of the Denominational Governors, however, is the feature best calculated to appease educationists of diverse views. One-half, or not less than one-third, are to be nominated by the School Board, County or District Council from among their own body, the remainder by the trustees of the school, and a constituency of ratepayers who are parents of children attending the school, and subscribers of not less than £1 per annum. The clerk of the Parish Council is to be the returning officer, and the school accounts are to be published annually. Rate-aided schools have long been a stumblingblock to the advocates of religious education, and especially has the obstacle been increased during Mr. Acland's tenure of office; therefore we welcome any proposal which forms the *via media* for drawing the contending parties into harmonious line. Copies of this particular scheme may be obtained of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, the Government printers.

THE FARMER'S EVOLUTION.

In 1767, Dr. Franklin wrote:
The farmer's at the plow,
His wife's milking the cow,
His boy is threshing in the barn,
His daughter's spinning yarn
All happy to a charm.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., has just informed an agricultural audience at Aspatria, in Cumberland, that the lines must be read as follows:
The farmer, he's gone to the show,
His daughter's at the piano,
His madam gaily dressed in satin,
And his boy is learning Latin,
And a mortgage on the farm.
—*Morning Leader.*

MORTALITY IN IPSWICH.

An Abstract of the Return of Deaths for the week ending Saturday, December 22nd, 1894.
Bath Street—premature birth, 1 day, male.
Tanners Street—teething and convulsions, 1 year, male.
James Street—bronchitis, 2 years, male.
Wilberforce Street—bronchitis and convulsions, 3 months, male.
Holy Wells Road—pneumonia, 14 months, male.
Nottidge Road—phthisis, 22 years, female.
Vernon Street—phthisis, 35 years, male.
Beaufort Street—phthisis, 32 years, female.
Wherstead Road—diabetes and phthisis, 42 years, female.
London Road—heart disease and congestion of lungs, 33 years, female.
Borough Asylum—heart disease, 70 years, male.
Salisbury Road—strangulated hernia, 44 years, female.
Woodhouse Street—rheumatic fever, 49 years, male.
Alan Road—Bright's disease, 21 years, male.
London Road—cystitis, 78 years, female.
Castle Street—accidental injuries from fall, 78 years, male.
Black Horse Lane—old age and pneumonia, 68 years, male.
Males, 11; females, 6; total, 17.
Annual death-rate in Ipswich for the week 15·0 per 1,000.
GEORGE S. ELLISTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Registrar-General reports the annual rate of mortality last week in 33 great towns of England and Wales averaged 18·2 per 1,000. The rate in Norwich was 24, and in West Ham 15.

CHAFED SKIN, Piles, Scalds, Cuts, Chilblains Chapped Hands, Sore Eyes, Insect Bites, Ear-Ache, Neuralgic and Rheumatic Pains, Throat Colds and Skin. Ailments quickly relieved by use of CALVERT'S CARBOLIC OINTMENT, Large Pots 13½d. each at Chemists, &c., or post free for value.—F. C. CALVERT and Co., Manchester.

IPSWICH SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

Owing to the pressure of public engagements the Rev. A. A. Dowsett will not seek re-election on the Ipswich School Board, but there are hopes that a contest may be avoided.

IPSWICH UNITED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The third of the series of monthly concerts, held under the auspices of these United Societies, was held at the Beehive Hotel, the Butter Market, last night, under the presidency of Mr. F. A. Bales, P.G. A most enjoyable evening was spent in toast and song.

THE FIELD.

The Henham Harriers will meet on Tuesday, January 1st, at Henstead Hall; Saturday, January 5th, at Linstead Chapel, at 11. The Duke of Hamilton's Harriers will meet on Monday, December 31st, at Debenham Cherry Tree: Friday, January 4th, at Red House, Bedfield, at 11. The Suffolk Foxhounds will meet on Tuesday, January 1st, at White Horse, Whepstead; Saturday, January 5th, at Nether Hall, Pakenham at 11.

SUPPOSED WRECK NEAR ALDEBURGH.

THE LIFEBOAT CALLED OUT.

At 6.30. a.m. yesterday gun-cotton rockets were bursting over the town for a crew of the lifeboat to assemble, a telephone having been sent into Aldeburgh that distress signals were observed away south on the sands. The usual rush took place, and the boat was quickly afloat and proceeded to the sands. The weather was fine.

AN ACTRESS'S FAILURE.

A receiving order has been made in the case of Miss Hope Booth, who describes herself as an actress, and presented her own petition. It appears that, having been engaged as an actress in America, she came to London and produced at the Royalty Theatre a play called "Little Miss Cute," of which the London rights had been given her. She states her debts at £162, and attributes her insolvency solely to losses in connection with this play, which was unsuccessful, and only appeared one night. The assets are returned as *nil*.

COMPLIMENT TO AN IPSWICH JOURNALIST.

Mr. Sidney Jeffrey, son of Mr. T. H. Jeffrey, of Christchurch Street, Ipswich, has been entertained at a farewell banquet at Hong Kong, on his giving up the sub-editorship of the *Hong Kong Daily Press*, to take a more responsible position on the *Straits Times* at Singapore. The guests numbered 180, the festivity being promoted by the "Odd Volumes" Club, and the President, in handing Mr. Jeffrey a cheque as a tangible expression of the good-will of his large circle of friends, predicted that his career would be one of continued success.

CAMBRIDGE COUNTY CRICKET.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Cambridge County Cricket Club was held on Saturday. The new President, Mr. Harry M'Calmont, presided. The rules were revised, and a number of gentlemen were elected vice-presidents, Mr. Frank Waters was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. R. J. Moffat hon. treasurer, and the following to serve on the committee;—The Rev. J. G. Clarke and Messrs. A. Peckover, B. Channell, Oliver Papworth, J. W. Oliffe, H. T. Luddington, J. J. Newman, T. Nichols, F. Piggott, W. F. Taylor, H. J. Garrod, Newton Digby, J. W. Betsford, H. G. Fuller, H. G. Few, and Dr. Perkins.

RAILWAY ENGINE TURNS A SOMERSAULT.

As a Midland Railway pilot engine, assisting one of the night expresses from Carlisle, was turning at Hawes Junction, it ran over the stop-block and turned a complete somersault, landing into the valley below. The fireman was seriously injured, but the driver escaped by jumping off. Another engine was blown over the line at Hawes Junction, and for some hours both the up and down lines were blocked. A breakdown gang was promptly set to clear the roadway. Hawes Junction is at the bleakest, loneliest, and most elevated part of the Midland line—a moorside station, where the railway runs along the steep slope of a hill, exposed to the tremendous hurricanes which in winter sweep up the Pennine valleys.

DEATH OF AN EYE NONAGENARIAN.

Some two or three years ago there were in this town, with a population of a little over 2,000, no less than eight persons who had attained the great age of ninety years and upwards. One by one they have all passed away, the last being Mr. John Cooper, father of Mrs. Jarvis, who died of senile decay on Friday morning in his 93rd year. Mr. Cooper was a native of Aylmerton, near Cromer, in Norfolk, where he resided, and carried on the business of a farmer until he was 72 years of age, when he retired and went to reside with his son-in-law, Mr. W. S. Jarvis, then station-master at Halesworth, where the deceased, by his genial manners, soon became a general favourite with the townsfolk. Mr. Cooper came with Mr. Jarvis to Eye in the early part of '88, and soon became well known in the town. The deceased was in his time a vocalist of no mean powers, and had been the life and soul of many a jovial party. He was also somewhat of a genius; for he could not only make a fiddle but play it when he had done so. Deceased, notwithstanding his great age, was able to get about till within a few weeks ago, and retained all his faculties almost to the end. The eldest man in the town now is Mr. Thomas Wells, the veteran agricultural labourer, who is 86 years of age, and who, it will be remembered, took part in a walking match a few weeks ago.

THE DECLINE OF MARRIAGE.

In future times, perhaps, the bashful girl of the period will come forward herself as a "candidate for marriage"; but at present, in flat contradiction of the French proverb, man no longer proposes. Many and varied are the reasons given for his remissness. The subject has been frequently ventilated, and, "Why men don't marry" has more than once formed the theme of a copious newspaper correspondence. Some attribute it to the selfishness and luxury of the "skulking" male creature; others to his shilly-shally and want of pluck; others, again, lay the blame on those odious clubs. One brutal person of my acquaintance says it is all the fault of the modern girl, who has such expensive and luxurious habits; but then I do not hesitate to characterise him as a "man of the moment" of the worst possible description! Mr. Grant Allen in his "Post-Prandial Philosophy" disagrees with them all. He thinks that in most things the modern young man is an improvement on his progenitors, but he nevertheless discerns in him a distinct and disastrous weakening of the matrimonial impulse. He attributes the present crisis in the English marriage market to the cumulative effect of nervous over-excitement, consequent upon the wear and tear of modern existence. *Tot homines quot sententiæ*: no two people can agree as to the cause; only the distressing fact remains, patent to all mothers of marriageable girls. The decline of marriage is, in fact, a new social phenomenon that has to be reckoned with and, if possible, explained.—From "Celibacy and the Struggle to get on," by Hugh E. M. Stutfield, in "Blackwood's Magazine" for December, 1894.

MORE HOUSE-BREAKING IN IPSWICH.

ALL DONE WITH THE JEMMY.

The little campaign of house-breaking in Ipswich still goes merrily on. The public continue to suffer loss, but they have the consolation of knowing that they are not threatened with injury, for the despoiler of Ipswich jewellery and gold always avoids a personal encounter. An empty house is his joy, and even when he rings a bell on a tentative effort, and it is by any chance answered, his excess of modesty forbids him to show himself at the door. So at least the mysterious rings and raps which have occasionally taken place at houses in the West End of the town would seem to imply. Another of the enterprises was performed on Sunday evening, at 257, Norwich Road, the residence of Mr. J. Crook. The servant girl who had been left in charge of the house, went out in the afternoon, and returning at a quarter past eight o'clock, found that the door had been burst open. Measurements of impressions show conclusively that the jemmy was the same that had been successfully used on previous occasions. The safe and plate were untouched, but about £30 worth of jewellery was taken. On Christmas Day, however, the unwelcome visitor made rather a big capture of booty at 109, London Road, the house of Mr. Murray. Mr. and Mrs. Murray and their daughter went to visit their son-in-law, Mr. Fred. Bird, at Clydesdale Terrace. A precaution taken by Mr. Murray in this case very nearly led to the intruder being discovered. Having regard to the recent robberies, Miss Murray was directed to go home at dark and light the gas in the hall and lobby in order to keep out the burglars. There is little doubt that when she went to the house for the purpose that someone had obtained an entrance, and was secreted in one of the rooms, for she noticed a wax vesta lying on the carpet of the front room, and could not understand how it got there, as such things are not used in the room. She did not care, however, to run the risk of being thought fanciful or nervous, and therefore made no comment on the subject when she returned to her friends at Clydesdale Terrace. When the family came back to the house at ten o'clock at night, however, they found that the bedrooms had been ransacked. The sum of £10 in gold had been taken from a work-box in Mr. and Mrs. Murray's room, the key having first been obtained from a drawer, and a gold watch, gold brooch, and a silver brooch had been taken from the dressing-table. The sum of £4 in money, a gold brooch, a diamond ring, a Mizpah ring, a silver bracelet, and a silver watch and chain had been removed from Miss Murray's room, but a number of valuables and a cash box containing between £10 and £15 escaped observation. About half-past eleven o'clock on Thursday night, shortly after retiring to rest at his house in Dalton Road, Mr. R. D. Fraser thought he heard a noise in the kitchen below. A descent was made, and a window in the kitchen, which is, as a rule, kept fastened in the day as well as night was found open. The circumstance was suspicious, especially as on the previous night, a peculiar noise was heard downstairs. The fact, however, may be explained by some accidental cause, and, in any case, the affair should be dissociated from the series of house-breaking incidents. It is now pretty clear, as was surmised in these columns soon afterwards, that the burglary at Messrs. Alston and Moir's was the work of an old convict, and its occurrence at the time of the breaking into Miss Rudland's dwelling-house was simply a coincidence.

30,000 CHILDREN FED.

The Robin Society, 390, New Cross Road, S.E., arranged breakfasts and dinners this Christmas for 30,000 poor London children in some 48 centres.

FATAL FAMILY FEUD.

William Craddick, 27, foreman in a Wolverhampton cycle works, is in gaol charged with having killed his brother Job, aged 22, by stabbing him at a family Christmas party. Job was employed at the same place, and there is said to have been a dispute about faulty work.

A FRENCH OFFICER BANISHED FOR LIFE.

The court-martial on Capt. Dreyfus, the son of a rich father and an officer of the French army, charged with selling military secrets to a foreign Power, has ended in a sentence of imprisonment for life in a military fortified place and in degradation.

AN ANCIENT USAGE OF CANTERBURY.

In 1556 it was enacted by the "Chamber of Canterbury" that "The Mayor before Christmas, yearly, is to provide for his wife, the Mayoress, one scarlet gown, with a bonnet of velvet, made for her to wear, according to the ancient usage of the City of Canterbury, under penalty of £10."

ENGLISH CRICKETERS FOR THE WEST INDIES.

It is reported that arrangements are now almost complete for the visit of English cricketers to the West Indies, and, under the direction of Mr. R. S. Lucas, the team will leave England either on 2nd January or a fortnight later. The team will be the guests of the various colonies or clubs, and they will visit in turn Barbadoes, the Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Mont Serrat. It is calculated that the tour will extend over three and a half months.

DISASTROUS FARM FIRES

IN WEST SUFFOLK.

On Friday night a fire occurred at Lancley Farm, Helions Bumpstead, in the occupation of Mr. Ellis Parker, and a considerable amount of property was destroyed, including a barley stack (the produce of 9½ acres), a sanfoin stack, a stack of rakings, an oat-straw stack, and a stack of mustard. The Haverhill Fire Brigade saved a large barn and cow sheds. The property is insured. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary.—On Saturday night a fire was discovered at the Place Farm, Haverhill, in the occupation of Mr. I. Smith. Seven large stacks were destroyed. Hundreds of people were attracted to the scene of the conflagration, which was observed for miles around. A strong wind was blowing; stack after stack became ignited, and it was feared that the entire premises and a number of cottages close by would be destroyed. The Haverhill Fire Brigade rendered splendid service, and, centralising their efforts upon the end of a large barn, full of unthreshed beans, cut off the progress of the flames, thus saving a long row of shedding, thatched barns, and stabling, from which all the live stock had been safely got out. The Methodist Chapel and Mr. Marcus Brown's builder's premises were also in jeopardy. Clare Fire Brigade quickly responded to a telegram, but on their arrival the home brigade had subdued the burning element. The cause of the fire is unknown.

SCOTTISH CHARACTERS IN MODERN FICTION.

The present popular conception of the Scotsman and Scotswoman as inspired idiots of dissenting proclivities may be piquant to English tastes, but cannot be particularly gratifying to their own countrymen. It is to George MacDonald, we fear, that the blame must attach of having first put forward in his earlier novels this unpatriotic presentation, and in his "Shargers" and "Soutars"—we forget his particular characterisations—of elevating abnormal types into general estimation. Mr. Barrie's genius has not, we regret to think, prevented him from repeating the faults of his predecessor with even greater extravagance; and in the present day, "haverils," "naturals," madmen, and ministers are the essential ingredients of every reputable Scottish fiction. It is only in the pages of Mrs. Oliphant and Mr. Stevenson that we now meet with any serious attempt at delineating Scottish character—that character which, in its many-sidedness, its strength, its sense, consistency, fidelity, obstinacy, shrewdness, manliness, even in its foibles and angularities, supplied the dominating interest in so many of Sir Walter's novels. With these two writers as current standards, the general debasement of our northern coinage scarcely admits of an excuse.—From "In 'Maga's' Library," in "Blackwood's Magazine" for December, 1894.

AN EVENING WITH HANDEL.

An evening with Handel without choruses might seem like the play without Hamlet. Yet the works of this great composer are so full of beauty that it was easy for a few amateurs to provide, in the Ipswich Lecture Hall on Wednesday week, a very enjoyable entertainment unaided by any chorus. The object was to swell the funds of the Howard Lodge Shelter for Girls, and the credit of drawing a fairly numerous attendance and arranging an excellent programme for them rests with Mrs. R. C. Ransome, who also undertook the arduous duties of accompanist. Great regret was felt that Mrs. P. B. Garrard, owing to sudden illness, was unable to give two songs as promised, but, with this exception, there were no disappointments. The instrumental selections included sonatas for two violins, 'cello and piano, "Largo," "Andante," "Bourée" and "Larghetto," "Minuet" and "Gavotte," skilfully played by Mr. and Mrs. N. Graham, Miss Nellie Corder, and Mrs. Ransome. Mrs. Graham also gave a violin solo, "Sonata in D," the allegro movement being especially pretty, and Miss Nelly Corder played a 'cello solo (a) "Sarabande," and (b) "Bourée," the latter item being particularly appreciated. Miss Jennie Turner gave a sympathetic rendering of two songs, "Beneath the Vine," and "Ask if your Damask Rose be sweet." Mr. G. King Smith's rich and cultivated tenor voice is always a delight; he contributed the recit, "Where would ye flee," and air, "Take me, O, ye band of cowards," from the Passion music, and the song "Love in her eyes," from "Acis and Galatea." Mr. W. Neale Turner sang with power "Arm, arm ye brave," from "Samson," and was encored for his inspiriting interpretation of "Droop not young lover." Mr. Norman Graham was heard to advantage in the song, "Where'er you walk," which was re-demanded. Last, but not least, Mrs. King Smith sang, with grace and expression, "What though I trace," and associated with her husband in the duet "O, lovely peace," The Rev. R. H. Cautley proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Ransome and the other performers, remarking that he hoped that one result of the concert would be to make better known the Howard Lodge, which for its preventive work was greatly deserving of help.

GUARDIANS' COMPLIMENTARY DINNER AT HALESWORTH.

In compliment to the Chairman of the Blything Board of Guardians (Mr. T. Lomax), and the Vice-chairmen (the Earl of Stradbroke and Mr. T. Girling) a dinner was given on Saturday afternoon at the Angel Hotel, Halesworth. Mr. J. K. Brooke presided, Mr. Jas. Colman was in the vice-chair, and there was a large attendance of old members. Mr. E. W. Moore gave the toast of "The Bishops, Clergy, and Ministers of all denominations," coupled with the names of the Rev. J. F. Noott, chaplain, and the Rev. A. Ashton. —In proposing "The health of Mr. Lomax," Mr. Brooke referred to the great value of their Chairman's legal experience. When, for instance, the question of the sewerage of Leiston arose, Mr. Lomax spent many hours, and took all possible pains to protect the interests of the Board. They were also very grateful to Mr. Lomax for the patience which he, as chairman of the Assessment Committee, always displayed in listening to the appeals.—Mr. Lomax, who was enthusiastically greeted on rising, after thanking the company for the very flattering manner in which the toast had been proposed and received, said he could not help fads, and one of his, since he entered the profession, had been "local government." (Laughter.) For some 17 or 18 years he participated in London what he termed "theoretical local government," and not practical local government, but in 1868, when he came to Suffolk, and was made a Guardian of the Blything Union, he learnt for the first time what was practical Poor-law administration. He learnt these lessons under three gentlemen now no more, the late Earl of Stradbroke, the chairman of the Blything Board of Guardians for about 50 years, and the vice-chairmen of the time. They did their work exceedingly well. Speaking of the Local Government Act of 1894, he said that the gentlemen in London responsible for the drafting of that measure, and the various officials who issued the orders for the guidance of the country were, no doubt, very clever men —(laughter)—but they

HAD NOT MUCH PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

of what the rural parishes required. (Hear, hear.) The machinery for London and the large towns might do very well, but it was too complicated and costly for many of the rural parishes, where the population was small—(hear, hear)—as, for instance, in parishes where the electors did not count more than 30 or 40, and yet for which there was the same machinery as for Ipswich, or the large wards in the city of London. The vice-Chairman (Mr. Colman) proposed "The health of the vice-chairmen of the Board—the Earl of Stradbroke and Mr. T. Girling," observing that in the county of Suffolk, or any other county, they would not find a better chairman or vice-chairman then they had in the Blything Union. (Applause.)—The Earl of Stradbroke, who was heartily received, assured the company that it had always been a great pleasure to him to act as chairman of the Board in the absence of Mr. Lomax, but the duties had been very light, because they had at hand the advice of Mr. Lomax in dealing with any serious case before them. His lordship alluded to the work of the Board, which, he he pointed out, was subjected to severe criticism, as was natural to public bodies; but although they might be harshly judged collectively, he did not think that judgment applied to them individually. (Applause.) With regard to the question of outdoor relief, he agreed with the view of his late father, that extension of outdoor relief tended to increase pauperism in the district.—Mr. T. Girling also responded.—Mr. Titlow proposed the toast of "The Officers of the Board," paying a high tribute to the ability and faithfulness with which their clerk (Mr. White) had discharged his duties. (Applause.)—Mr. White replied that he had been an officer of the Blything Union for 57 years. As to the Parish Councils Act, he did not think it was worth the paper that it was written upon. (Laughter and applause.)—Col. Bence-Lambert gave "The health of the Vice-chairman" (Mr. Colman)—a guardian of over fifty years' standing.—Mr. Colman, in reply, referred to the question of assessments, maintaining that they should be based upon the rents. (Applause.)

That line full of clothes, so perfectly clean,
MATCHLESS CLEANSER'S been used, that is easily seen.

R. L. STEVENSON'S DEATH CONFIRMED.

Dr. Balfour, of Edinburgh, uncle of Robert Louis Stevenson, the novelist, who wrote to the papers stating caution should be exercised in receiving the report of the death, has received a cablegram confirming the sad intelligence.

FIRE IN A CHURCH.

A fire took place in the Roman Catholic Church, Clarendon Street, Dublin, which nearly caused a panic. While some children were inspecting the representation of the crib one of them knocked a lighted candle among the straw setting it on fire. One child was so badly burned that it had to be taken to the hospital.

ACCIDENT AT FOOTBALL.

During the progress of a football match at Reading on Wednesday, between the London Caledonian Strollers and the Reading Reserves, a member of the first-named club named James collided with an opponent and sustained a badly-fractured collar-bone.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN A CELL.

Florence Davis, a laundress, living in Seymour Street, St. Pancras, was charged at Bow Street, on Wednesday, with assault and attempting to commit suicide. On Monday night prisoner was taken to Tottenham Court Road Police Station charged with assaulting a man. In the cells prisoner violently kicked the female searcher, and afterwards attempted to strangle herself with a piece of velvet. Remanded.

PEPPERING A WIFE'S BED.

A SAD STORY.

William Price, 25, shipwright, of Christchurch Street, East Greenwich, was brought up at the Police Court, on Wednesday, on a warrant for assaulting his wife. The prosecutrix told a tale of miserable married life, dating from 1890, and said, on December 17th the prisoner struck her three times, smashed up and burnt furniture, and peppered the bed all over, so that it was impossible for her and her child to sleep. He had done no work for months, and had refused it. He had only given her £1 16s. since April, and she had had to keep him. The prisoner's solicitor pleaded for him to be let off, but Mr. Dickinson said he thought a week's rest would be beneficial to him, and remanded him.

BANKRUPTCY OF A SOLICITOR.

LIABILITIES £60,000.

Mr. Charles Norton, solicitor, who was apprehended at Cambridge on Monday, was brought back to Swansea last evening in custody of Detective Inspector Gill. The charge against Mr. Norton is that he failed to appear at Swansea Bankruptcy Court on Friday last to undergo his public examination, and on the application of the Official Receiver the registrar issued a warrant for his arrest, the Official Receiver stating as his grounds the debtor's non-appearance and neglecting to furnish a statement of his affairs. In accordance with the Bankruptcy Act the debtor was adjuged a bankrupt, notice of which appeared in Wednesday night's *Gazette*. The liabilities are said to exceed £60,000.

CRUELTY TO HORSES AT IPSWICH.

Samuel Keynes, a carrier, of Hadleigh, pleaded guilty at the Ipswich Police Court on Monday, to cruelty to a mare. Inspector Blake Jones, of the R.S.P.C.A., stated that he found two wounds under the collar. The collar had been cut away, but not satisfactorily, and the draught came upon the wounds. The man said the horse had been in that condition a fortnight. The Inspector added he told the defendant that unless both his horses were at once eased—the other having a wound—he would not be allowed to leave the town with them. Defendant, who said he immediately did what the Inspector told him, was fined £2, and costs 9s.—James Greening, a traveller, of Newton Road, was charged with cruelty to a gelding. Inspector Blake Jones said he observed the cob in charge of defendant's boy going in the direction of the Cattle Market, and apparently "got up for sale." It was in a very bad condition and had a very lame foot, and diseased leg. The defendant subsequently came up, and said he knew it was not fit for work and he had not worked it, but he was proposing to sell it. He had bought the cob to ease another, but found it did not answer his purpose. —Police-constable Hammond corroborated, adding that the cob held its foot up, and Mr. J. Worsley, veterinary surgeon, said he considered it gross cruelty to move the cob from one place to another in its condition.—Defendant pleaded that he did not know it was cruel to move the horse, and said he had it removed to Mr. Binks's, where it was ultimately slaughtered.—The Mayor said the Magistrates considered this a case of gross cruelty, and they were astonished that a man in the defendant's position should plead ignorance. He was fined £2, and costs £1 1s. 6d.

THE TICHBORNE ROMANCE.

The story concerning the reported discovery of the long-missing Sir Roger Tichborne in a lunatic asylum in Australia may, it is believed, prove more feasible than many persons are inclined to admit. At the famous Tichborne trial the Jury family (the two Mrs. Jurys being sisters to Arthur Orton, the claimant) played a conspicuous part in the witness-box. Since the receipt of the telegram announcing the discovery of the real Sir Roger a press representative has had interviews with members of this family, and greatly to his surprise they admitted that there was great probability that the man called Cresswell was the missing Hampshire baronet. It appears from what they say that Arthur Orton and Cresswell, *alias* Castro, were together in the bush in Australia for some time. During the companionship, the family state, Orton and Cresswell confided to each other the history of their lives in England. Some time after Orton had obtained Cresswell's confidence it became "necessary" for the latter to be confined as a lunatic in the Parramatta Asylum. A member of the Jury family declares that when Cresswell entered the asylum Orton, assisted by the black servant Boyle, determined to return to England and lay claim to the Tichborne estates. One member of the family, indeed, went so far as to say that they had heard of Orton's proposed return, and his purpose in coming home, some time before he left the colonies. With regard to the alleged likeness of Cresswell to Arthur Orton, the Jury family declare that there was not the slightest resemblance between them, although at the trial members of the same family declared that Cresswell was a relative of theirs. Edmund Orton, who was a butcher in Mexico, received from the claimant the sum of £250 to go from Mexico to the Parramatta Asylum and indentify Cresswell as Arthur Orton. The result of the trial proved this evidence to be incorrect. On the other hand the claimant bears a very strong likeness to all the Ortons, and the interviewer was assured that there are members of the Orton family, not among those called at the great trial, who are prepared to admit that the claimant is no other than Arthur Orton, and who consider it probable that the lunatic Cresswell is the real Sir Roger Tichborne. The family further stated, in support of this belief, that Cresswell, who was believed to have a brother living in England, has not been identified as a Cresswell, although the English brother some years ago went out to Parramatta for the purpose of indentification. He, however, they state, failed to recognise a relative in the lunatic.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY DISASTER.

13 PEOPLE KILLED.

A terrible collision occurred on Saturday evening at Chelford, near Crewe, on the London and North-Western Railway, when the afternoon express from Manchester ran into some goods waggons which, it is asserted, were blown upon the up line by the violence of the storm. Several carriages of the express were completely wrecked; thirteen passengers were killed outright, and a large number injured, some of them, it is feared, mortally. The express was an exceptionally heavy one, for the Christmas traffic was in full swing. Several of the bodies were bruised and mangled almost beyond recognition. Over 50 persons were more or less seriously injured by the collision. Amongst those who were in the collision were Sir Charles and Lady Halle. Sir Charles said the collision was one of the most terrible sights he ever saw. The cause of the disaster, so far as he had been able to ascertain, was that a truck, forming part of a goods train, had been blown across the path of the express. Among the injured passengers detained at Crewe were Mr. James Ryde, 15, Naismith Street, Norwich, and Mr. John Boon, editor of Exchange Telegraph Company, London.

THE BOARD OF TRADE INQUIRY

was opened on Wednesday before Major Marindin. After visiting the scene of the disaster the inquiry was adjourned to the Crewe Arms Hotel, Crewe.—The first witness was Frank Fearn, pointsman at Chelford. He said that in the afternoon of December 22nd a luggage train was being shunted. There were between 30 and 40 waggons. Shunting operations were carried on until the 4 15 express from Manchester was due. He did not see anything wrong. He gave the signal to Alderley Edge "Line clear," and in three minutes saw the express approaching at full speed. The train passed, and he did not see anything on the line in its way, nor did he get instructions to place the "danger" signal against it. He did not hear the smash, but he saw the fire and steam from the engines.—Henry Footner, Chief Permanent Way Inspector, expressed his opinion that the engine struck the empty truck, smashing it and carrying it forward. Both engines left the metals, and the first falling over on its side, acted as a stop block, and caused the damage to the rest of the train. Mr. George Whale, Assistant Locomotive Superintendent, agreed with Mr. Footner as to the engine striking the truck.—John Hyde, station-master at Chelford, said he had charge of the shunting operations on that day. A luggage train from Crewe to Manchester was being shunted on the down main line and the sidings. The engine had knocked an empty truck down the line for Stalybridge; the truck had come to a dead stop. While he was looking after other parts of the goods train he turned round and saw this empty waggon on the move. He went towards it, but it ran down and struck, he believed, some other waggons, and passed on over the points, fouling the up main line. He saw the express about 50 yards away, and at once waved a red light to try and stop it. Joseph Capper and Henry Cheshire, driver and fireman of the second engine of the express, said the signals were clear, and the train was going at a good speed. The weather was bad; there was a strong side wind, and they were trying to keep time. On entering the station, they saw someone wave a red light, but at the same moment the front engine struck the truck, and was thrown off the rails. The second engine followed, and they were still going at a good speed, when the front engine fell over on its side, and acted as a block to the whole train behind. Capper said he believed that the truck must have lain dead across the rails.—The inquiry was adjourned.

A Perfect New Year's Present.
A Perfect New Year's Present.
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
DECORATED TINS OF MAZAWATTEE TEA
Of Specially-appointed
MAZAWATTEE AGENTS.

HUNTING ACCIDENT.

At Wednesday's meet of the Fitzwilliam hounds, at Castor Hanglands, Mr. Joseph Watson, a retired Lincolnshire farmer, living at Peterborough, was thrown from his horse and killed. Mr. Watson, who was 54 years of age, was well known in the Sleaford district.

CULPABLE HOMICIDE.

At Glasgow High Court on Wednesday James Milton, an Ulsterman, was charged with murdering his wife, Mary Thomas, by beating her to death. A plea of culpable homicide was, however, accepted, and Lord Adam sentenced the prisoner to ten years' penal servitude.

KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.

On Wednesday morning a fatal accident happened on the London, Chatham, and Dover line at Buckland, Dover. A young man named Hill, stoker at the Dover Gas Works, had been on duty, and it is supposed was taking a short cut home across the railway when he was caught by the Deal train and cut to pieces.

A BOMB AT OLDHAM.

Some excitement was caused at Oldham early on Christmas morning by a loud explosion in the centre of the town. An examination showed that a bomb had been exploded near the corporation borough-rate offices. The remains of a large tin canister were found close by. No damage was done owing, it is believed, to the fact that the explosive was placed some little distance from the building.

FUNERAL OF A VETERAN CO-OPERATOR.

Four addresses were delivered at the funeral of Mr. E. T. Craig, the veteran co-operator, in Hammersmith Cemetery, on Saturday afternoon. The first was by the Rev. T. G. Gardiner, rector of St. George's, Southwark, the next by Mr. Edward Owen Greening, another veteran co-operator; then Mr. Tochatti spoke, and, finally, Mr. Webbe, of the British Phrenological Association, addressed the gathering. At the conclusion of the speeches the choir of the Hammersmith Socialist League sang Poet Morris's social hymn.

A FORTUNE LOST IN FARMING.

One of the largest farmers in South Lincolnshire, Mr Thomas Pope, of Thurlby and Bourne, came up for his public examination at Peterborough Bankruptcy Court last week, his statement of affairs showing liabilities £4,876 11s. 11d., and assets £2,266 0s. 3d., deficiency £2,610 11s. 8d. The debtor commenced farming in 1860, and in 1874 was farming over 1,000 acres, while he had a capital of over £10,000. He had been losing money for several years, including £2,000 through the flooding of his land in 1880. His household expenses had only been £130 a year, and he had only kept one servant in the house. Mr. Alter, of Stamford, a solicitor, himself a creditor, said there had been no gambling or extravagance, the debtor's and his wife's fortunes having been sunk in the land. The examination was closed.

LIVERPOOL NEW CATTLE MARKET.

A Bill has been lodged at the Private Bill Office by which it is proposed to incorporate a company to take over the market for the sale of cattle and other live stock which has been carried on for many years at Walton-on-the-Hill, to purchase by agreement the Liverpool Abattoir Company, and to provide improved market accommodation for the sale of cattle, meat, game, fruit, vegetables, hay, straw, &c. Railway communication between the new market and the Midland and Lancashire and Yorkshire lines is to be effected, and subways are to be provided for the animals and their drovers beneath the public streets. Sir W. B. Forwood is to be one of the directors of the new company, the capital of which is to be £30,000. Power is to be asked for to pay interest out of capital during the construction of the works.

ALLEGED THIEVES AND SWINDLERS.

THREE LONDON CASES.

On Wednesday, at Marlborough Street, Arthur Hasler, 28, was remanded on bail charged with having obtained by false pretences the sum of £7 8s. from tradesmen in Pall Mall Place and Oxford Street by means of worthless bank notes. He had obtained goods of the two prosecutors, tendering in payment notes of the Plymouth Dock Bank for £5. The bank is now defunct, and the date of the notes had been altered from 1819 to 1889.—At Marylebone, Mary Seaton, 29, was remanded on two charges of stealing umbrellas from Roman Catholic places of worship while their owners were in the confessional.—At North London, Maggie Winter, 14, servant, and Nellie Laws, 19, describing herself as an artist, were remanded on a charge of stealing a cash-box and £4 2s., the property of a Mrs. Morris, residing in Mare Street. Laws had been connected with the Salvation Army, and in that way came to know Mrs. Morris, and it was alleged that she called in the absence of the prosecutrix, took the cash-box, and induced the younger prisoner to go away with her. In the dock each girl accused the other of the theft, and Laws said that what she had done was for love of Winter, who, she had heard, was not properly treated.

A HUMAN PARCEL.

A POLISH GIRL'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY.

A little Polish Jewess, by name Pearl Landau, has just completed a remarkable journey to Liverpool. There are at present located in Liverpool a number of Polish subjects of the poorer class, and recently one of these sought the assistance of Mr. W. A. Mills, the manager of Messrs. Bywater, Tanqueray, and Co., emigration, steamship, and railway agents, of 23, Water Street, Liverpool, to get her little sister Pearl over from Poland. The woman was too poor either to go for the girl herself or pay someone to accompany her. Mr. Mills, therefore, got one of Messrs. Bywater, and Tanqueray's parcel labels, and wrote on it in two or three languages the following:—"To the railway officials. Please forward this girl on to Hamburg," giving the address of their agents, and also their Liverpool address. The success of the experiment was very doubtful as the girl was only 10 years old, and could not speak anything but her own language. The journey was a long one—hundreds of miles overland before Hamburg was reached—and for days and nights the little traveller would have to depend upon the goodness and, in some cases, the charity of people who were not only strangers but aliens. Human feeling and sympathy, however, shielded the little Polish Jewess, and much to the surprise of Mr. Mills himself the child was brought to 23, Water Street, the other day with the parcel label tied to her arm. The little girl travelled from Poland to Germany, thence by boat to Grimsby, finally reaching the Central Station, Liverpool. It took about a week from the time the child's parents put her on the railway for her to reach Liverpool, and at no part of the journey was the label removed from her arm. The child was handed over to her married sister in no way the worse for her remarkable journey.

BURIAL SCENE AT STOWUPLAND.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE VICAR AND FORESTERS' SECRETARY.

An unfortunate misunderstanding regarding which explanations have since been given has occasioned during the past week some little talk in the neighbhourhood of Stowupland as to the funeral of Mr. C. W. Barnard, late landlord of the Crown Inn there. Mr. Barnard was a member of the Court "Prince," A.O.F., Stowmarket, and had in the Order many friends who naturally wished to offer the last tribute of regard for him. Accordingly a circular was issued intimating that the Foresters' service would be read after the usual service, and to this the vicar (the Rev. A. Atkin) offered not the slightest objection. He was, however, of opinion that the case was not one for which the full burial service ordered by the Church for its members would be suitable, and decided to use an alternative service prescribed by the late Bishop of the Diocese, wherever in the opinion of an incumbent the other service might not, to again repeat the vicar's own words, seem exactly "suitable." This alternative service is to be said entirely at the grave, and as it was certain the difference would be noticeable, and it was not unlikely that the Foresters were expecting a particularly solemn and impressive ceremony, the Vicar addressed the following letter beforehand to the Secretary of the Court:—"Stowupland Vicarage, Stowmarket, December 21, 1894. Dear Sir,—In reply to your notice, just received respecting the funeral here of a deceased member, &c., &c., while assuring you of my great respect for the purposes of your Society in its provisions as I understand it, I write that you may not be deceived by the expectation that I shall be able to do or say anything that would be at all satisfactory, honouring, or comforting in this particular case. I wish much indeed it were otherwise. Faithfully yours, Albert Aitken." It is to be regretted in the light of subsequent circumstances that the Vicar—as he thought it necessary to write and hint what he felt in the matter—did not more fully explain the nature of the service. The funeral was fixed to take place in the churchyard on Friday afternoon, and a number of the members of the Court assembled with the principal mourners. Knowing nothing beyond what was contained in the letter, they were surprised to see the coffin being taken direct from the gates to the grave. The members were a good deal concerned at what they regarded as an indignity; and on their behalf Mr. Thos. Aldridge (the secretary) made an appeal to the Vicar that the ordinary service should be adopted. Mr. Aitken, seeing that the difference was rather keenly felt, consented to proceed with the first portion of the ordinary service as usual in the church, and when this had been said, he conducted the alternative service at the grave. In an interview with the *Journal* commissioner on Monday, the Vicar said he should be very sorry if it were thought that he showed any disrespect to the Order, with which he had great sympathy, and it was also his desire not to wound the feelings of the widow at all. The statement that he had hurried over the service was incorrect, and if that idea had prevailed in anyone's mind, it was from a misapprehension as to the nature of the alternative service. Some 100 members of the Order attended the service on Sunday, and the Vicar said he was very glad to welcome them there. His sermon was based on the passage beginning, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and to fulfil the law of God." It was announced that the offertory would be for the Court. In an interview on the same day Mr. Thos. Aldridge (the secretary of the Court) said that the members appreciated the consideration the Vicar showed them on the Sunday, and did not wish to pursue the matter further. Whether they would accept the offertory, however, remained an open question, for the simple reason, that when they held their meeting on the Monday it was not tendered to them, and hence they could not consider the point, although they had no doubt it would be sent to them. The report that they had sent a protest to the Bishop was not true. They desired peace, and that no controversy should arise on the subject.

THE LAST OF SOUTHEND.

Mrs. Read, widow of the convict James Canham Read, had a Christmas surprise on Friday in the form of a remittance of £23 from the London and India Docks Joint Committee.

EDITOR FOUND DEAD IN A TRAIN.

The body of a gentleman who was found dead in a railway carriage near Dorking a few days ago has been identified as that of Mr. William Dunbar Quinlan, the proprietor and editor of the *Mining World*, city paper. The deceased gentleman was on his way to Southsea. His interest in the journal named now falls to his junior partner, Mr. William Chisholm.

LONDON'S BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

The annual report of the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police shows that during last year the number of persons reported to the police authorities as being missing was no less than 28,269. The number of persons that were found and restored to their friends by the police was 14,295. The number of unknown bodies that had been photographed and descriptions circulated without any information being obtained as to lead to their identification for the year was 66.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN AN ASYLUM.

On Saturday, at Grove Hall Lunatic Asylum, Bromley, Coroner Baxter held an inquest on John Bridge, 50, an inmate of the institution. Henry Clayton, an attendant, said that about seven weeks ago deceased, while exercising in the yard, had a fall. He complained of being injured, and was at once removed to the sick ward. Dr. Mitchell deposed that deceased had been a private in the Foot Guards. He had been a patient in the asylum for 25 years. He suffered from fits. The cause of death was pneumonia. Verdict of "Natural causes."

DECAPITATED BY A TRAIN.

A sickening sight was witnessed at Stoke Newington Station of the Great Eastern Railway on Saturday night. The 8.27 down train was just leaving the station when the numerous passengers on the platform saw one of the doors thrown open and a gentleman step out. Unfortunately that portion of the train had already passed the platform, and the gentleman fell on the line and the train passed over him. The head and arms had been cut off and the rest of the body was mangled. The body was identified as that of Mr. J. J. Reed, of 11, Brydon Road, Clapton Common.

COLLISION ON THE G.E.R.

A collision, fortunately unattended with fatal consequences, occurred near Colchester on Saturday. A special train in connection with the Christmas traffic was run from Chelmsford to Colchester at 2.33, and, having discharged its passengers, was shunted on to the Tendring Hundred down branch line just before four o'clock. The shunting engine was then uncoupled and run back for the purpose of getting "round the train," and being coupled on at the other end so as to form a train, which was to proceed to London. By some oversight the carriages had not cleared the crossline along which the engine was to run round, and it dashed into the brake-van, smashing the end of it and throwing it off the line. The two front wheels of the tender were also thrown off the rails, and the brake and engine together blocked both up and the down branch lines. The station-master, Mr. Blatch, Mr. Kemp, inspector of the permanent way, and the staff took prompt measures, and, though of course the trains were delayed for an hour or so, both the up and down branch lines were got clear before six o'clock.

DEATH FROM SYNCOPE AT IPSWICH.

The painfully sudden death of Mr. Isaiah Gooding (69), insurance agent, of Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, occurred on Christmas morning. Deceased's son James while upstairs heard a noise as of someone falling. On proceeding to the kitchen, the son found his father lying on the door-mat just inside the kitchen, with his head on the doorstep. Death ensued in a very few minutes, and Mr. Webster Adams, surgeon, attributed death to syncope. The Ipswich Borough Coroner, at the inquest on Thursday, enquired of Mr. Adams whether syncope was not a mode of dying rather than a cause of death, but the medical witness dissented from this view. Verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

FATAL BLOOD POISONING CASE AT IPSWICH.

Mr. Walter Nunn (60), a widower, formerly residing at 108, London Road, Ipswich, and a well-known figure at Suffolk cattle markets, on the 8th November last fell off the step of a small dog cart, causing the second finger of his right hand to bleed profusely. The following day the injured finger was dressed by Mr. J. C. Wiggin's, chemist, assistant. The finger became inflamed and swollen, and Mr. J. L. Aymé Aymerd, surgeon, was consulted, and the finger was operated upon. Fomentations were applied, but as serious developments followed, Nunn was further operated uponunder chloroform. On December 15th, however, he complained of severe pain in all his joints, and in a few days developed pneumatic conditions, and died on Christmas morning from blood poisoning. At the inquest, conducted by the Ipswich Borough Coroner on Thursday, a verdict of "Accidental death" was recorded.

BOTESDALE GUARDIANS' FAREWELL.

On Thursday the Rev. T. Holt Wilson, chairman of the now defunct Botesdale Board of Guardians as such, who to the deep regret of the whole Union has not sought election on the new Rural District Council, invited all the old Guardians, officials, Union officials, and a number of other gentlemen to meet him at luncheon served at the Bell Hotel, Botesdale. The invitations issued by the rev. gentleman referred to the fact that overseers were appointed for Poor-law purposes in parishes in 1601, and the Poor-law Amendment Bill, forming Unions, was passed in 1834. Thus for 60 years had the system had its trial, and now in some respects, it was to be altered to suit the temperaments of the present age; but as more, rather than less, duties would be imposed on District Councils, he felt compelled to retire, as he would have more than enough to occupy his time.—In addition to the Rev. T. Holt-Wilson there were present Messrs. R. Newstead (Rickinghall), vice-chairman; T. Cracknell (Wortham), vice-chairman; J. B. Chevallier (Aspall), Rev. T. L. French (Thrandeston), Right Hon. Lord Henniker (Thornham), *ex officio* Guardians; Messrs. H. Wainwright (Botesdale), G. Brown (Burgate), J. F. Cator (Cotton), H. Gedny (Eye), J. Rash (Eye), C. Tacon (Eye), A. Simpson (Finningham), E. Catchpole (Mellis), F. J. Robinson (Mendlesham), C. Scott (Mendlesham), B. O. Gedny (Oakley), B. C. Gedny (Occold), H. Derisley (Palgrave), J. M. Cook (Rishangles), E. Murton (Stoke Ash), H. Nunn (Thorndon), E. Symonds (Thornham Parva), Rev. E. Sandys-Reed (Westhorpe), Messrs. D. Lingwood (Wetheringsett), W. Peck (Wetheringsett), S. Cracknell (Wickham Skeith), Rev. R. Sanderson (Wyverstone), and Mr. W. Fisher (Yaxley), elected Guardians; Rev. A. J. Spencer (chaplain, Eye), Rev. C. C. James (chaplain, Wortham), Dr. Pearse (Botesdale), Dr. Barnes (Eye), Dr. Cuthbert (Mendlesham), Dr. Wright (Eye), Messrs. Jno. Bond (clerk to Guardians), T. H. Whitmore (relieving officer), F. Clarke (relieving officer), Lazarus Moss (inspector of nuisances), H. P. Riches (Eye Union), A. Cooper (Wortham Union), and W. Roper (registrar of marriages). The following lady visitors of the Union were also present:—Miss Chevallier, Miss Cator, Mrs. Cullum, Mrs. Gedny, Mrs. Newstead, Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. Tacon, and Mrs. Holt Wilson. Other visitors included Rev. G. Hales, Mr. R. H. Wilson (Bury St. Edmund's), Mr. C. Schwann, M.P., Dr. Cott (America), Mr. E. Wilson, Miss H. U. Wilson, and the Rev. E. Farrer.—The Rev. T. Holt Wilson having given his guests a most cordial welcome, Lord Henniker, in fitting terms, proposed, "The Queen," and he was followed by the Chairman, who submitted "The Prince of Wales," both enthusiastically received.—Dr. Barnes proposing "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," coupled with the toast the names of the Revs. A. J. Spencer and C. C. James, both responding.—"The Army and Navy" was proposed by Mr. Vice-chairman Cracknell, and responded to by Mr. E. Wilson, Lieut.-Surgeon Wright, and ex-Chaplain the Rev. R. N. Sanderson. —The Chairman gave "The healths of the Medical Officers of the Union."—Dr. A. Pearse responded, saying he had been connected with the Union 35 years.—Dr. Cuthbert proposed "The County Council."—Lord Henniker, in responding, said although chairman of Quarter Sessions for about 25 years, yet he had not attended as an *ex-officio* Guardian at the Board. Referring to the County Council, his lordship spoke of

THE GOOD FEELING EXISTING,

they having put all personal feeling and animosity aside, and had for six years worked most smoothly. His lordship expressed the hope that both the Parish Councils and the District Councils might be animated by the same desire to do all the good possible for the benefit, not only of the poor, but of the public at large. His lordship paid a high tribute to the Chairman for the work he had done at the Hartismere Board; no family, he said, was more respected than the family of the Chairman. (Applause.)—Mr. Newstead, C.C., speaking of the loss the Board would sustain by the retirement of the Chairman, he (Mr. Newstead) even now expressed a hope that he might become a member of the new Council. (Applause.) He gave "The health of the Chairman," which was very cordially honoured.—The Chairman, in responding, said he had asked those present to bid good-bye to the old Board, and to usher in the new Council. His connection with the Board had extended over thirteen years, during twelve of which he had been in office. The late Rev. Canon Chevallier, his predecessor as chairman, expressed a hope that he might occupy the position, and when it was offered he hesitated, but feeling it to be his duty he accepted. As regards the new Act, he rejoiced that it had been passed, because it would open the eyes of many who were now blinded by ignorance. Referring to a wish expressed that he would join the new District Council, the Chairman said he had carefully considered the question, but must say that it was the most favourable time to leave, as he saw men returned as District Councillors who were well qualified and competent to occupy the position, and having other public duties to perform in two large parishes, he was desirous of devoting more of his time to the spiritual work for which he had been prepared. At the same time, he should always take a lively interest in the work of the Board. (Applause.) The Chairman then proposed "The health of Mr. Schwann, M.P.," who, in response, said they must look hopefully to the new order. The House of Commons passed the Act, owing to the great confusion and chaos which existed both in the rating of the country and in the authorities who possessed rating powers. As to the Parish and District Councils, there was no reason why extravagance should be indulged in, but he did advocate a recreation ground in every parish, and bath-houses would prove a great boon to the young men. (Applause.)—Other toasts followed, including "The Vice-chairmen," "The new Rural District Council," and "The Ladies."

All hope of comfort in my home had died
Until the MATCHLESS CLEANSER SOAP I tried.

ANOTHER JAPANESE TRIUMPH.

An official dispatch from Yokohama, dated December 23rd, announces that the Japanese division under the command of Gen. Katsura on the 19th inst. encountered Gen. Sung's force, 10,000 strong, seven miles to the west of Hai-Tcheng. After five hours' fighting, during which four assaults were made upon the Chinese position, Gen. Sung's force was routed.

GERMANY PROHIBITS BRITISH CATTLE.

The Hamburg Senate on Saturday notified that, as the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in various localities in England had been established, the importation into Hamburg of ruminants and swine from Great Britain and Ireland is prohibited. Consignments despatched up to Monday would be admitted, but must be slaughtered immediately on arrival. Orders to a similar effect have been issued at Bremen and Luebeck.

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A SWEETHEART.

At Hastings on Saturday Henry Foster was charged with the attempted murder of his sweetheart, Jane Smith, at St. Leonards. The girl had deep cuts on the throat, face, and hands, and in his evidence the doctor who dressed her injuries said she would in all probability have died had she not been attended to immediately. The girl remains in the hospital in a dangerous state. Accused was remanded.

DELUDED BY A "DUCHESS."

An action brought in Paris by Princesse de Sagan an her brother Baron Raymond Selliere against a Mdme Merlier for the recovery of 400,000 francs left her by Baron Richard Selliere on his death, has caused some extraordinary disclosures. Mdme. Merlier, it is stated, fitted up a handsome establishment in the Rue de Constantinople for the baron's gratification. Several young and pretty girls were presented to him there, and as he suffered from the delusion that he was to marry a Royal princess they were introduced to him under the most fantastic names and titles. He arranged a match with one of the girls who was passed off as a young English duchess. The "duchess," however, ultimately decamped after borrowing a large sum of money, but Madame Merlier retained her influence over Baron Richard until he died.

THE MISSING LINK.

At last the "missing link" has turned up. Such, at least, is the opinion of Professor Dubois, who has, within the last few days, described the skull and leg bone of an extinct "anthropoid" from Java. The admirers of the late "Sally" of the Zoo may recollect her comparatively massive and furrowed brow, which was even bald. The present ape, termed by M. Dubois "Pithecanthropus erectus," had a better forehead than even Sally. And what is, in a way, more to the point, the ape in all probability walked in the erect posture, which no existing ape does, except under extreme provocation. It is lamentable that the ravages of time have destroyed all but these two bones and a stray tooth of the Pithecanthropus; but we have the future before us. In the meantime it is rather hard to decide which we should adopt of Professor Haeckel's two terms; should this new beast be called an "ape-like man" or a "man-like ape"?

ALLEGED MURDER BY A CRICKETER.

The Notts Coroner held an inquest at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Wednesday to inquire into the death of Sarah Oldham, aged 40, who died early on Christmas Day from from a cut in the throat. The husband of the deceased had gone to America with another woman, and she had lived for about four years with Edmund Kestevan, a professional cricketer and framework knitter. There had been frequent quarrels, and he had shown her a knife, with which he said he would finish her some day. Both were sober on Monday and apparently friendly when seen at supper. Just after midnight, however, the woman entered her sister's house with her throat cut, sank to the floor and died in a few minutes. The brother-in-law went to the woman's house and the door was unlocked by Kestevan, who admitted that he had committed the act, and that the razor would be found on the floor. The woman's nightdress was saturated with blood, as was also the bedding, and there was a pool of blood on the floor. A verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned against Kestevan, who was legally represented and is in custody, but preferred not to be present.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY AT THE OLD NORWICH GOAL.

During the latter part of last week some men were employed in demolishing the remains of the old city gaol at St. Giles' Gates. On Friday they came upon a large stone forming part of the facade, "dowelled" together with another, and within which an aperture had been carefully prepared and sealed with lead for reception and preservation of coins of the day. The workmen had been warned by Mr. Burton, clerk of the works, that such a find was possible. The two stones having been separated, a sheet of copper was disclosed, and beneath this was a sheet of glass. Then came to the view bright coins of the following values. A £2 piece of 1823, a sovereign of 1821, and a half-sovereign of 1817, a crown of 1822, a half-crown of 1821, a shilling of 1821, a sixpence of 1821, a fourpenny piece of 1823, a threepenny piece of 1823, a silver two-penny piece of 1823, and a silver penny of 1823. There was one more coin, a copper farthing of 1821, but that was encrusted with verdigris. On the face of the brass plate turned down upon the glass laid over the enclosure containing the coins is the following inscription:—"This building, intended for a public common gaol for the city and county of Norwich, was agreed to be erected in the Mayoralty of Robert Hawkes, Esq., who was appointed chairman of the committee to superintend its construction, and this stone was laid on the 31st May, 1824, in the Mayoralty of John Staniforth Patterson, Esq., in the presence of the Justices, Sheriffs, and Aldermen of the said city, Philip Barnes being the architect, Stephen Mears and Saul Blyth the builders."

SINGULAR QUESTION OF IDENTITY

CASE DISMISSED.

At the Ipswich Police Court on Monday, Robert Grimes, a labourer, of 114, Woodhouse Street, was charged with indecently assaulting Margaret Ellen Stiff, a girl who is under seven years.—Mr. W. Marshall was for the prosecution, and Mr. E. P. Ridley for the defence.—The case for the prosecution was that between four and five o'clock on Tuesday, December 4th, the little girl, who lived with her parents in William Street, was looking in Mrs. Kidby's sweet shop window when the defendant came up to her. The allegation was that the defendant asked her to go up a passage to find a little boy's cap, and that he there assaulted her; and that afterwards he took her for a walk up Arboretum Lane, where he did up her clothing. The only corroboration was that ex-Police-Sergt. Garnham, in going up the lane, met the little girl and a man coming down the lane at the time stated. The man shaded his face on seeing Garnham, but the latter deposed that he was dressed like the defendant. The child did not know the nature of an oath, and made her statements without any form of swearing or caution, as she appeared too young to apprehend it. In her leading evidence the child was unable to identify anyone in Court as the man who was alleged to have assaulted her, but, in cross-examination, the defendant was pointed out to her by Mr. Ridley, and being asked by him whether she thought the defendant was the man she replied "Yes."—Mr. Garnham said that, so far as the light would allow, he noticed the man particularly, and gave a description of his clothes at the Police Station the same evening. His belief was that the defendant was the same man, but, although he knew him before, he could not recognise him, as he shielded his face.—Police-constable Firman said that defendant was placed with four other men. The little girl looked at all of them once or twice before picking out the defendant.—Mr. Ridley said he thought he should be able to prove, beyond question, that this was a case of mistaken identity. Before calling witnesses Mr. Ridley pointed out that the little girl said the man who assaulted her had on a short coat, and Mr. Garnham swore positively that the man in the lane had on a long coat. The girl, when called into the Police Station to identify the man, picked out the defendant wearing a long coat, and said he then was dressed the same as he was when he assaulted her. This was a curious discrepancy. He (Mr. Ridley) thought there could be no doubt that the man who assaulted the girl was wearing a long coat, and that the defendant was on that afternoon wearing a short coat—not an overcoat. It happened that on the Tuesday afternoon in question the defendant, with two other men—Jeremiah Bennett and — Newson—who were out of work, went for a walk. They started at a quarter-past two o'clock, and went for a long walk, which would be detailed, and which must in all reason have taken about an hour. The reason they remembered the day perfectly well was that on the day previous there was a strike at Mrs. Doughty's shoe factory, and one of the men had been employed there. When they reached the Cornhill, the time, as a matter of fact, was a quarter to four o'clock. They looked at the clock. They then walked down Brook Street, Tacket Street, Rope Walk, and into Borough Road. One of the men (Newson) then left, but Jeremiah Bennett and Grimes went back to Mr. Pinner's shop, and stopped there until six o'clock. Mr. Ridley called Jeremiah Bennett, who gave very clear evidence to this effect, and adding that the defendant did not speak to any little girl during the time. The witness was closely cross-examined by Mr. Marshall, but his evidence was not shaken in any way.—A. Butcher, of St. Helen's Church Lane, who was employed at Mr. Pinner's shop, deposed that Grimes and Bennett came into the shop at a quarter past four o'clock, and stayed there until six o'clock. Mr. Marshall also pressed this witness closely, but without affecting the *alibi*.—The Magistrates, after a short retirement, dismissed the case, and their decision was received with loud applause, which was immediately suppressed.

Great indeed are the blessings which HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA has diffused amongst the masses of Mankind. The tone, the strength, and the vigour of the human body are increased by the daily consumption of Horniman's Pure Tea. LOCAL AGENTS:—*Ipswich*, Groom, 57, Princes Street; Bradford, 58, Tavern Street; Jackson, Fore Street; Broome, 49, Butter Market; Provincial Drug Company, Westgate Street; Co-operative Stores; Bell, Brook Street; Steed, St. Matthew's Bakery; Wheeler, Great Colman Street and Tacket Street; *Woodbridge*, Barrett, confectioner; Betts and Son, chemists; *Stowmarket*, Simpson and Son; *Harwich*, Worts; *Peasenhall*, Jerry; *Sudbury*, Dixey, confectioner; Bury, Nunn and Co.; *Saxmundham*, Palmer, chemist; *Hadleigh*, Slater, chemist; *Botesdale*, Rush; *Laxfield*, Samson, grocer; *Cockfield*, Brewer, grocer, &c.; *Long Melford*, Mullen, grocer; *Lavenham*, Green, chemist; *Cavendish*, Clark, grocer; *Monks Eleigh*, Vince, grocer; *Manningtree*, Gibling, confectioner; *Debenham*, Gooding; *Felixstowe*, Brown, chemists; *Needham Market*, Harrington, chemist, and at *Walsham*; *Halesworth*, Gale, bookseller; Gostling, chemist; *Framlingham*, Jude, draper; *Walton*, Co-operative Society; *Southwold*, Woods, confectioner; *Wrentham*, Sadd, tea dealer; *Wickham Market*, Co-operative Stores; Last, chemist; *Bramford*, Bowman, confectioner; *Wetherden*, Page, grocer, &c.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BOLTON.

The recently erected bleaching and dyeing works of Messrs. Ramsden and Co., Breightmet, near Bolton, were burned down early yesterday morning. The damage is estimated at £3,000.

FATAL PUBLIC-HOUSE QUARREL.

Samuel Arnold, of Sedgeley, was remanded at Dudley yesterday, charged with the manslaughter of a lodging-house keeper named Lovall. During a dispute in a public-house on Thursday night, Arnold, it is alleged, struck Lovall a violent blow on the forehead, and Lovall reeled and fell dead at his feet. Arnold then ran away, and was not captured until yesterday morning, when he said he had been drinking.

SHOCKING DISCOVERY IN AN OFFICE.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE OF A SUPERINTENDENT.

Superintendent Thomas Holloway was, late on Thursday night, found dead in an office almost beneath the organ in Brighton Dome. His throat was terribly gashed, and he had apparently committed suicide, but no writing was found on the body to indicate such an intention. Supt. Holloway was a man of exceptional ability, and rose from the ranks with unusual rapidity.

DISTRESSING AFFAIR AT SHEFFIELD.

MOTHER AND CHILD DROWNED.

A mother and child were found drowned yesterday morning near Matilda Street, Sheffield. The woman apparently lay down in the brook with a child in her arms. Both are well nourished, but the woman has not been identified. The woman, who was poorly dressed, was seen on Thursday night in the neighbourhood endeavouring to obtain lodgings, but she did not succeed.

WELSH COLLIERS SECURE DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

Over £700 damages have been awarded by the Pontypridd Magistrates to 160 Rhondda Valley colliers, who were wrongfully dismissed by their employers, the Glamorgan Coal Company. The men had been engaged in sinking a pit on the day-to-day contract, but on going to work they were asked to sign the Welsh colliery sliding scale agreement, which imposed the condition of a month's notice. The point was, therefore, whether the men could be discharged on a day's notice. The Bench ruled that they could not, and also allowed costs against the employers.

IPSWICH SCHOOL BOARD.

TRIENNIAL REPORT.

The eighth triennial report and statement of accounts of the Ipswich School Board, an advance copy of which is before us, is a document somewhat voluminous, but at the same time affording considerable information as to the Board and its work during its three years of office now expired. Statistics naturally form a preponderating feature of the report. Three members of the Board originally elected in January, 1892, have resigned; one through leaving the town, one through ill-health, and the third through inability to devote sufficient time to the duties of the Board. There have been 2,787 meetings of the Board and its Committee during the three years, and the average attendance of the members has been over 80 per cent.; no member still sitting on the Board falls as low as 70 per cent., while the highest attendance of all, 92 3, has been made by one of the Labour representatives. The records of attendance of children is highly satisfactory, and bespeaks praise of the Board's officers; as in this respect the Ipswich Board has an average of nearly 82 per cent. against 77½ for the rest of England and Wales. Four hundred summonses to parents were issued in the three years, and 40 were either withdrawn or dismissed. The school census as taken in 1893 shows a considerable increase in the child population over that of 1890, and the Board reports enlargements to the schools in the suburbs of the town, while a new school is arranged for to the west of Bramford Road School. "The increased stringency of the pupil teachers' examinations" (says the report) "and the change by which the final or fourth year's examination is made much more difficult, induced the Board to consider that some further supervision and examination of the pupil teachers' work should be instituted by the Board. Advantage was taken of the opening of the Higher Grade School to appoint the Head Master and Head Mistress of that school as organising teachers, and in October, 1892, a scheme was settled by which the pupil teachers assemble at the Higher Grade School for about a couple of hours on Saturday mornings for instruction, examination, and advice." The arrangements made for religious instruction during the first triennial period have never been disturbed. The total number of children receiving education in the Board Schools is 5,524. The finances for the three years show—total receipts £42,956 2s. 3d., against which is placed £6,639 14s. on loan account.

IPSWICH GUARDIANS.

LADY GUARDIANS TAKE THEIR SEATS.

The first meeting of the newly-elected Ipswich Board of Guardians was held on Friday at the Town Hall, when there was a large attendance, including four of the lady members—Mrs. Bulstrode, Mrs. Owen, Miss Oxborrow, and Miss Everett. Mr. E. T. Read, who is one of the oldest members, proposed the re-election of Mr. S. R. Anness (the Deputy-Mayor) as chairman, eulogising his past work.—Mr. J. B. Fraser seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.—Mr. Anness, in response, said that if the old Board had run its full term until March he should have retired, but he had been urged to allow himself to be re-nominated, and, therefore, had done so. In regard to the policy of the old Board he claimed that their endeavour had always been to impress upon young people the advantage of belonging to a benefit society, and the help which the Board had given to those who were in need, but had endeavoured to help themselves, had induced many to join friendly societies. The Board had also considered character in regard to relief. With reference to the constitution of the new Board, the Chairman said he was glad to be able to welcome several ladies amongst them, recognising that there was good work for the ladies to do both at the Workhouse and St. John's Home.—Mr. J. H. Grimwade moved the appointment of Mr. J. B. Fraser as vice-chairman. Under the new Act only one vice-chairman could be appointed. Mr. Fraser had been junior vice-chairman, and had been especially

USEFUL IN FINANCIAL MATTERS.

—Mr. E. Hull Ryde readily acknowledged the great experience and the ability of Mr. J. B. Fraser. But there were other gentlemen who had served for an equally long period on the Board, and who could fulfil the duties of the vice-chair. He proposed that Mr. H. R. Eyre be the vice-chairman.—Mr. Lord seconded the amendment.—Mr. Eyre said there was another gentleman who had had long experience on the Board—he alluded to Mr. A. Raphael.—Mr. Raphael said he was quite content to sit at the other end of the room.—The vote was as follows: Cocks, Fenn, Foulger, Fraser, Hale, Lord, Nash, Powell, Pye, Quinton, Raphael, Read, and Ryde (13). Against: Borrett, Mrs. Bulstrode, Calver, Cautley, Dowsett, Miss Everett, Fisk, Fulcher, Grimwade, Miss Oxborrow, and Tozer. Did not vote: the Chairman, Mrs. Owen, and Mr. Eyre (3). Mr. Eyre was, therefore, declared elected.—Mr. Eyre suitably thanked the Committee.—Mr. Fraser tendered his congratulations to Mr. Eyre upon his appointment, holding it was desirable there should be some changes, but it was thought well he should stand his ground.—The Chairman then invited Mr. Preston Thomas (the Local Government Board Inspector).—Mr. Thomas, in a brief review of the work, remarked that the machinery of the poor-law, in spite of all its defects, had done enormous good during the last fifty years. Half a century ago in many parishes the rate was a guinea in the £, actually above the assessment. Pauperism had been reduced fifty per cent. The condition of the people in the workhouses had been improved, and the administration generally had become more enlightened. He also welcomed the presence of the ladies at the Board meetings. Ipswich was the most flourishing town in the Eastern Counties, but he had some doubt whether the Poor-law institutions corresponded with its prosperity. Mr. Preston Thomas then touched on the defects of St. Peter's Workhouse, referring especially to the want of good arrangements for employing vagrants. He thought the Board had done a most desirable thing in establishing St. John's Home, and so separating the children from Workhouse influence. St John's Home greatly required improvement. He particularly called attention to the epidemic of ophthalmia, something like 80 cases having occurred among 200 children. He attributed this partly to over-crowding and to inadequate lavatory arrangements. He pointed out that the reason the Local Government Board had rejected certain proposals of the Board for lavatory alterations was that they thought it most undesirable that a lot of children should be bathed in the same water. He urged also that to avoid epidemics

A PROBATIONARY WARD

was most needful. Fresh children were admitted to the Home simply on some outside doctor's certificate, and these certificates were worth about as much as testimonials. (Laughter.) It was reported that Dr. Fuller and another specialist had examined the children during the week, and had recommended that the services of a nurse specially skilled in the treatment of ophthalmia be obtained. He supplied the address, but the nurse who came down knew nothing about ophthalmia. (Laughter.) Some mistake had occurred. The Board empowed the Chairman to obtain the aid of another nurse. The Local Government Board wrote directing that the proposal recently passed by the old Board for increasing the Clerk's salary should be submitted to the new Board. Mr. Vulliamy offered to lay the facts before the new members, and this was agreed to, the old members being entirely satisfied as to the reasonableness of the increase.—For the surgeonship at St. John's Home, vacant through the resignation of Dr. W. A. Elliston, there were four candidates:—Mr. Arthur T. Wood (who has frequently acted as deputy for Dr. Elliston), Dr. G. Vincent, Mr. W. F. Fryer, and Mr. C. K. Moseley.—The Rev. A. A. Dowsett proposed, and Mr. W. Hale seconded, the nomination of Mr. Wood. Mr. Fryer was also proposed, but the other candidates did not find nominators. Seventeen voted for Mr. Wood, and six for Mr. Fryer.—A rather spirited controversy took place on the appointment of committees, but in the end a few alterations were amicably made.—Mr. E. Hull Ryde gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting of the Board—(1) That the resolution passed by the late Board of Guardians of the Ipswich Union to build a new Workhouse on land at Rushmere, lately purchased by the Board, be rescinded. (2) That the advertisement offering a premium of £150 for the best plans for a new Workhouse be withdrawn. (3) That a Committee of the members of the Board be appointed to investigate and inquire into the condition of St. Peter's Workhouse, and to report to the Board what, in their opinion, is necessary to put the same into efficient repair and condition to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Board. He also gave notice of a motion that the resolutions of the Board relative to the appointment of a new Master and Matron be rescinded.

GREAT STORM IN SUFFOLK.

DROWNING FATALITIES.

HOUSES BLOWN DOWN: STREETS FLOODED.

A tremendous gale swept over the east coast on Friday and Saturday, and, with the exceptionally high tides, caused a great deal of damage. The seas at Southwold swept over the beach, soon flooding the marshes to a depth of from six to ten feet, and likewise covering the dam running into the town (which, in fact, is the only roadway into and out of Southwold) to such a depth that traffic was most dangerous. After the country people had got into the town for Saturday night shopping, they found, when wanting to return, that it was quite impossible, and, in fact, dangerous and hazardous, as it afterwards proved to be, as a young man made the attempt and was drowned. He was the son of Mr. Chas. Cady, of the Bridge House Farm, and against the advice of friends and companions he would venture. When about 50 yards across it is supposed he was taken off his feet and carried into deep water, where on Sunday morning his body was found by a man named Robert May. The river wall was broken through in several places, and from Easton to the lifeboat house there was one scene of water over all the marshes, and so great was the tide and flow of water that two long openings were made in the railway embankment, carrying away the ballast and leaving the line suspended in the air. This, of course, completely stopped all rail traffic, and only by the utmost care and good management of the Southwold Railway Company was communication between Southwold and Halesworth maintained and passengers enabled to reach their destination. The devastation is great, and considerable time and money must be spent to repair the damage done to the protecting walls. Mr. Arthur Pain came down at once and instituted a scheme for repairing the damage between Halesworth and Walberswick, so that but little inconvenience will result to travellers, as buses will run to Blackshore, making but a short journey across to the Walberswick Station. The inquest on the young man, William Cady, was held on Wednesday, when a verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned, and recommendation made that posts painted white, with top and bottom rails, should be put on each side of the road, from the bridge to the gate house. The Coroner said he would forward it to the proper authorities. The river Yare overflowed its banks near the goods station at Yarmouth, pouring into Bridge Road, and made it unpassable for pedestrian traffic. The houses at Vauxhall Station were flooded. Between Belton and St. Olaves there was such a flood of water that the fire of the engine of the passenger train between Yarmouth and Beccles was put out. On the Needham line traffic was also temporarily suspended. At Lowestoft considerable damage was done to the approaches to the pier. Owing to the pressure of water in the sewer that leads into the harbour, the basements of shops and houses in Pier Terrace and St. John's Road were flooded to a depth of several inches by the water rushing up through the drains, and pumping and baling had to be resorted to. At Ipswich on Saturday night the water was seven feet higher than at the previous tide, and such a neap tide has not been registered for many years. The water overflowed the quays and the upper part of the Promenade. The residents at Stoke were obliged to return home by the Railway Station. The railway turntables on the St. Peter's Quay were floating about in all directions, on going down Foundry Lane after the tide had receded, the holes covered by those tables were left open, and the G. E. R. Company had to provide men to watch those places all night to prevent persons from tumbling in. Early on Saturday afternoon a house and shop in the occupation of Mr. Amos, pork butcher, at the corner of Rosemary Lane, was unroofed, a chimney stack first falling through the roof and ceiling into the room below. The greater part of the roof was carried into the street. A temporary covering had to be put on to the house for the shelter of the tenants.

THE BEDROOM WAS WRECKED.

A large signboard was blown from the top of Mr. Price's boot and shoe establishment at the corner of Tacket Street, and struck on the head Mr. Barber, who was standing near. Mr. Barber was rendered insensible. With the aid of Mr Ernest Brereton, who had passed the St. John Ambulance examination, he was taken to Mr. Brogden's surgery, where the wound was dressed. At Woodbridge, the coal warehouses at the Ferry Quay, belonging to Mr J. B Hart, were flooded, and the railway line was covered for some distance with over half a foot of water, whilst in the yard of the Boat Inn the water was more than knee deep, but the occupants of the inn and cottages adjoining fortunately were able to keep out the rush of water by barricading their doors with a large quantity of clay, &c. Between nine and 10 p.m. an exciting scene was witnessed, some men named Finney, Adams, Farrow, and Mays having to wade through the water, which was up to their waists, to rescue from a watery grave about half a dozen pigs (belonging to Mr. E. W. Gibbs), which were in a stye at the rear of Mr. Hart's coal-houses, and the force of the overflowing tide at this point may be judged from the fact that several tons of "Cannel smooth hards" were dislodged from a neatly-stacked heap, not far from the pig-stye, and the coal was carried in all directions, one very large piece, weighing at least half a cwt., being carried more than 25 yards from the heap. At Beccles a little boy named Boar was struck on the head while walking in the street in the afternoon, and was rendered unconscious. In Blythburgate Street the whole window frame of a house occupied by Mr. Burnham was blown in. There were an unusually large number of hay stacks on the marsh level this year, but scarcely one of them has been left intact, the hay being scattered in all directions. At Harwich an *employé* of the Great Eastern Railway Company named King, was struck on the head by a board, and had one ear nearly cut off.

BOY DROWNED IN THE ORWELL.

The high tide of Saturday night carried away about 100 barrels of tar belonging to the Tar Works at Halifax, on the Wherstead Road, and a man named Elliston, employed at the works, had endeavoured from daybreak to recover the missing barrels. On Sunday afternoon, Elliston, with a boy named Leggott, about 15 years of age, son of Alfred Leggott, living at Halifax, started from the Ostrich Creek in a very small boat to make another search for the barrels. A gentleman walking along the road over the sewer, on the opposite side of the river, watched the movement of the little craft, when, to his surprise, it capsized through the occupants changing seats. With all possible speed, he made his way to the house occupied by J. W. Page, who has charge of the Sewerage Works. The latter procured his oars and rowlocks with the intention of rowing his boat to the scene of the accident. However, before he succeeded in getting the boat off, the lad, who had been left struggling in the water with the upturned boat, sank, and was never seen again. In the meantime Elliston, who is a good swimmer, made his way from the buoy, where the boat was capsized, to the London Hard, a distance of about 120 yards. A man named Chas Mullett, and the gentleman who saw the accident, at once put off in the boat with the view of rendering help if the lad happened to rise again. Elliston immediately repaired to Page's house, where he was supplied with a suit of dry clothing before he proceeded home. Elliston's version of the accident, which he volunteered when he reached the shore, was to the effect that he asked his youthful companion to take one oar, and the boy, instead of going to the opposite side of the boat to which he was sitting, came to his (Elliston's) side, and the craft immediately turned over. He added that he gave instructions for Leggott to hold fast to the boat while he swam ashore and obtained assistance. The lad, though holding on for a short time, appeared for some reason unable to cling to the boat. The water was at the ebb at the time the accident happened. The inquest on the body of the boy Leggott, which was recovered by a mariner named Henry Fryer, was held before the Ipswich Borough Coroner on Monday evening. The evidence of Mr. William Tyler, a G.E.R. clerk, and Mr. King, a distiller, Wherstead Road, bore out the foregoing statement. The Coroner made allusion to the common but reprehensible practice of standing up in small boats, and the Jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned," a rider being added to the effect that one or more life-buoys, drags, and life lines should be supplied and kept at the Sewage Outfall Cottage, there being none nearer than the New Lock Gates.—The Coroner undertook to forward the presentment to the proper authorities.

WIVENHOE SMACKS IN DISTRESS: A SAILOR WASHED OVERBOARD.

A Wivenhoe mariner named William Oakley, belonging to the smack Violet, was washed overboard and drowned on Saturday at East Ness, near Clacton. The smack carried away her mast, and lost some of her fishing gear. Oakley was 65 years of age, and married. A somewhat similar accident occurred to the smack Mary, of Wivenhoe. Her mast snapped, and the mainsail fell foul. A smacksman named Porter was for a time believed to have been washed overboard, but was discovered under the sail. A shrimping smack, belonging to Wivenhoe, put into Clacton during the gale with a hole knocked in her.

IPSWICH BOUND VESSEL AGROUND.

The Greek barquetine Avykhesa The Enapthe, bound for Ipswich, laden with brown umber and locust beans, for Messrs. R. and W. Paul, Ltd., grounded on Cork Sands on Monday, and was towed off by the tug Merrimac, and into Harwich Harbour, where she anchored. The vessel had encountered very rough weather, and had lost anchor and chains and several sails.

SHOCKING DEATH AT SEA.

The body of George Wingfield, third hand on board the trawler Clement, of Lowestoft, was brought into port on Monday, his death having taken place at sea in consequence of serious injuries he received during the heavy gale. On Sunday morning, when the trawler was about 50 miles east by north of Lowestoft, the vessel shipped a tremendous sea, dashing the unfortunate man against the capstan with fearful force. He sustained an internal injury, and died in a few hours. Wingfield, who is stated to have been a very well-conducted and sober man, leaves a widow and seven children.

DUNWICH: A LAKE FOUR MILES LONG.

The sea continues to encroach upon Dunwich and Saturday's gale played sad havoc for about two miles along the foot of the cliff from Dunwich to Minsmere Level, removing the bottom of the cliff for a few feet under the ruined church, but, further along, throwing as much as 15 or 20 yards width at the top of the cliff into the sea. The old well on the cliff, familiar to all visitors to Dunwich, is still intact. All the slopes down the cliffs which gave access to the beach were washed away, as was also the footpath used by the Coastguard at the top. The water rose to the top of the sea wall, which encloses Minsmere Level, and gently flowed over in many places, but owing to the breadth of the beach here, no great damage was done. The marshes did not escape, and the inhabitants looked out on Sunday morning on a lake four miles long and some half-mile broad, which completely covered all gates and gateposts. As the tide ebbed, this water quickly fell, and it was found that a large breach, about 50 yards across, had been made through the shingly beach, just north of the wreck which came ashore two months ago. It is eight years since the marshes were last flooded, and above 30 years since a breach was made.

PARKESTON SAILOR'S MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

On the arrival at Harwich of the General Steam Navigation steamer Rainbow on Monday night, Captain Dyer reported that whilst his vessel was on her passage from Hamburg to Parkeston, on Saturday night, a young able seaman named Edward King was missed. The deceased was the son of Foreman King, in the employ of the G.E.R., at Parkeston, and great sympathy is felt with his relatives.

A STIRRING STORY OF THE SEA

was told by the captain of the Swedish steamer Wermlund, belonging to Gothenburg, upon arrival at Yarmouth, bound from Norkoping with a cargo of deals, battens, and boards. In the North Sea on Saturday, when about seventy miles off Yarmouth, a gale was raging. The decks of the Wermlund were repeatedly swept, the captain was nearly washed overboard, and several times the steamer seemed on the point of foundering. She, however, arrived in Yarmouth on Monday afternoon, her three small boats having been carried away, her side lights lost, part of the deck cargo washed overboard, the steering-house, the chart-house, and the companion shattered, and altogether bearing the appearance of a complete wreck.

LOWESTOFT FISHING FLEET SUFFERED

terribly by the gale, and many reports are to hand of gear having gone and decks swept, and sails split. The Gem of the Ocean, a trawler, is reported as having been towed into New Dieppe, in a dilapidated condition. On Christmas afternoon, the John Macey, a Yarmouth smack, was towed into Lowestoft by the General Gordon dismasted.

FLOODS AT ALDEBURGH AND FELIXSTOWE.

At Felixstowe the high tide did a great deal of damage. The new road leading from Felixstowe Pier to Landguard, recently finished and opened for traffic by the Government, for several hundred yards was rendered impassible for vehicular traffic. Many of the beach tents were more or less damaged; nearly all were shifted or overturned, and some broken up altogether. The water entered the Bath Hotel Tap to a depth of several inches, and the wash of the sea carried away a considerable quantity of soil all along the front beach, especially in front of the Manor House, where a portion of the lawn is washed away. At Aldeburgh with the flood tide came a very heavy swell and sea, which was very awkward. A general rush was made by the sailors and fishermen at Thorpe to save their little all. The boats were got away on the sandy hillocks, while the capstans had to be left. The time of high tide was past, but the tide kept rising to a degree never before witnessed at the haven's mouth, which, by-the-bye, was only opened twenty-four hours before to get the land water from the marshes. This was the point the sea attacked. When the shingle bank had been swept away flooding and destruction began. Thousands of tons of water were forced into the adjoining marshes, and hundreds of acres of lands, roads, &c., were submerged by the sea. The bridge which crosses the Haven was next attacked, and two immense sections from the middle were carried away. The tide continued rising until early Sunday morning. Between Haven House and Thorpe the sea broke through in two places, the house being left on an island, and with the bridge gone communication was cut off. At daylight the sight was deplorable. Sections of the smashed bridge were thrown up in places, and as the gale abated, and the waters of the North Sea got vent at the English Channel, the great flood began to subside. Rabbits, &c., were driven out of their holes, only to drowned on the submerged marshes. As the sea receded the waters rushed like a boiling chaldron from the flooded lands back to its bounds. The tide seriously affected the town, making inroads at different parts, rushing into the streets, and over the promenade at the north of Brudenell Terrace. All the fishermen were at work until long after midnight securing boats and gear, &c.

LEISTON AND DISTRICT.

In the outlying parts of Sizewell and Thorpe, on the seacoast, much inconvenience, trouble, and in the case of those who had their dwellings flooded, loss was caused by the extraordinary high tide of Sunday. This came with full force into the haven and up the river at Thorpe, demolishing the footbridge, and thus destroying communication between the hamlet and Aldeburgh. Several cottages situated in the low part adjoining the marsh were entered by the water, and the tide rose above the railings along the railway embankment, washing them away, and at high water was a foot above the rails. On the tide receding it was discovered that the ballast had been washed away in considerable quantities. Prompt measures were taken by the railway staff at Aldeburgh and Leiston, and the damage was repaired in time to permit of the traffic being worked on Monday without delay. The lifeboat at Thorpeness and all the fishing boats along the beach had to be removed higher up out of the way of the tide. This, of course, caused much inconvenience to holiday-makers, but on the whole an enjoyable Christmas was spent.

ORFORD.

Saturday night's tide was amongst the highest for 20 years. At the ebb, about six p.m., it was remarkably low, the wind then being on the west, but at midnight the high tide flowed two hours later than it should have done, and nearly overflowed its "continents." Boats were hauled up on the quay, which were under water. But the most remarkable feature of the gale was the high tide at seven o'clock on Sunday morning, which ought not to have happened before eleven o'clock. It is quite a record.

SCENES OF DEVASTATION.

Great Britain generally suffered from the effects of the week-end storm. The wires of telegraph and telephone were broken between London and many centres. On Saturday evening the G.P.O reported that there had been no wires to Scotland since early that morning, so that the whole of the day's work remained still on hand. There was heavy delay also to the Midlands and Ireland. Buildings were blown down everywhere, many persons were killed, and tales of shipwreck come from almost every shore. On the other hand the falls of huge chimney-stacks have been responsible for many deaths. At Bolton the roof of the Iron and Steel Works was blown off, and the walls collapsed, burying the Bessemer steel department. Two banks and a school were damaged by falling chimney-stacks at Bury (Lancashire), where also the chimney at a dye-works collapsed, wrecking the premises. Two workmen were injured. No such storm has, it is said, been experienced in the Derbyshire district for 30 years. Houses were partially unroofed, hayricks damaged, and a large chimney at the Eagle Iron Works at Belper was blown across the roof of the workshops, causing great wreckage. The chimney at the Derby Tile Works also fell, crashing into the factory. Escapes from death were miraculous. At Bradford a chimney stack fell through the roof of a house into the dining-room, where Mrs. Hickson and her three children were breakfasting. No one dared go near, as the house commenced to fall, but the Fire Brigade undertook the work of rescue. They found the three children, but the mother was missing. At Blackburn a chimney stack fell through the roof of the children's ward at the infirmary, and the floor collapsed. Five children and the cook were rescued from the débris, but not before another floor gave way, seriously injuring a man. At Wigan a boatman was blown into the canal, and, being rescued, was found to have sustained a fractured leg. In Chesterfield the Market Place was reduced to a scene of desolation, stalls and goods being overturned. The local skating rink, too, was razed to the ground, and the noted crooked steeple of the parish church was considerably damaged. At Clayross a timber merchant's premises and Ling's Row Baptist Chapel were partially blown down. Enormous damage was done at Darwen. Harrogate's Streets were strewn with glass, slates, and broken chimney pots, and a new iron church in the Leeds Road will require to be rebuilt. At South Shields a man named Wilson, while walking along the railway, failed to hear an approaching train owing to the wind. He was knocked down and killed. At Finsley, Sheffield, two high chimney shafts were blown down at the works of Messrs. W. Cooke and Company. One nearly 100ft. high, came down with a crash, burying beneath its ruins a number of men who were in the immediate vicinity.

FIVE MEN WERE KILLED.

The other chimney did immense damage to the works. From Langrick, near Boston, comes news that a boatman was blown into the sea and drowned; and from Goole it is reported that the drill shed of the Goole Volunteers has been completely wrecked, portions of the roofing having been carried 300 yards away. A chimney fell at Messrs. Webster and Bickertyn's engineering works and a lad was injured. A mill chimney fell at Leeds upon two cottages, killing one child and injuring several other persons. The tower of the Liberal Club was also blown down, and one of the large chimneys of the new post-office fell. Two mill chimneys fell at Wakefield and one at Pudsey, where a workman was injured. There was great damage in the Keighley district. At Cullingworth a warehouse was blown down, and at Keighley a chimney fell, killing a man named Robert Richardson and slightly injuring another. The Prospect Mills lost its roof. From Dumfries the news is that chimney stacks fell at the Castlebank Mills, that two turrets of Greyfriars Church fell through the roof, and that Dumfries Suspension Bridge was so damaged that it had to be closed. Tales of falling chimney shafts also come from Wakefield, and the roads of Lockerbie seem to have been rendered impassable by fallen trees. At Bervie, near Montrose, several persons were badly injured by the falling of a chimney, and there were other accidents in the district. Trees were uprooted and buildings razed to the ground at Kirby Stephen, where the gasworks metre was partially destroyed. The roof of the North-Eastern Railway Company's carriage shed was also blown off, and Hellifield Station similarly suffered.

DISASTERS ON THE CONTINENT.

A storm of extraordinary violence swept over Holland on Saturday night. At Rotterdam the rivers Maas and Rotte overflowed into the town. Most of the streets were flooded to the depth of nearly two feet, and the market-places were transformed into lakes. At Utrecht nine houses fell in, but the inhabitants escaped, and only one person was injured. Three persons were drowned by the capsizing of a boat at Papendrecht. At Ymuiden it was found impossible to open the sluices of the Amsterdam canal. Telegraph and telephone wires were broken down everywhere. The full force of the gale was felt on the coast. Great anxiety was felt on account of the Belgian fishing fleets.

LORD SALISBURY AND PARISH COUNCILLORS.

Mr. R. N. Rogers, hon. secretary of the Penryn, Falmouth, and Flushing Conservative Association, has received the following letter from the Marquis of Salisbury in reply to one calling his lordship's attention to a statement made by Sir John Swinburne, the Gladstonian candidate for the borough of Penryn and Falmouth:—"Hatfield House, Herts, December 22nd, 1894. Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 20th inst., asking me whether it is true, as stated by Sir J. Swinburne, that I had said the public-houses were the proper places for parish meetings. I did not make such a statement. If I am reported as having done so the report was inaccurate. The substance of what I said, on the occasion to which I imagine Sir John Swinburne to refer, was that persons elected by their fellow-parishioners to discharge the duty of parish councillors were very unlikely to be persons who were unable to meet at a public-house without drunkenness. I therefore thought it was a great mistake to put into a statute a prohibition by which this imputation was evidently implied. Yours faithfully, "SALISBURY."

RUPTURE.—J. A. Sherman, Hernia Specialist. If you wish to be cured, send for his book, post free 7d. —J. A. Sherman, 19, Mount Street, opposite Central Station, Manchester.

RUPTURE CURED without operation. All who wish to get rid of Rupture and trusses should send to Mr. S. J. SHERMAN, Hernia Specialist, 64, Chancery Lane, London, and 26, King Street, Manchester, for his Book post free 7d.

CHURCH NOTES AND NEWS.

[SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED.]

Information from any parish in the diocese (if suitable for this column) will be acceptable, and carefully attended to, if friends will kindly forward it to the Editor of Church Notes. *Ipswich Journal.*

On December 13th, the chapel which Lord Stanmore has erected in La Braxia Cemetery, Malta, to the memory of his late wife who is buried on the spot, was opened with a dedicatory and memorial service by the Bishop of Gibraltar. The service was attended by Sir Arthur Fremantle, Governor of the Island, the chaplain to her Majesty's forces, and other members of the British community, civil and military. The chapel is a picturesque building in harmony with the architecture of the island, and is likely to prove a great boon to the British residents in Malta.

The "Kalendar of the English Church," which is now in its 32nd year of publication, may be regarded as the unofficial year-book of the advanced Anglican section of the Church of England. Its pages, which number nearly 500, give evidence of accurate compilation, and the information on ritual and liturgical matters is very interesting.

The text of the Local Government Act is given in full, and the Editor's advice to the clergy is worthy of reproduction and approval. . . . Those country parsons who are wise will take care to make themselves master of the provisions of the Act, and to assist their Parish Council in the prosecution of all needful reforms, even in those cases where the parishioners have not seen fit to place them in office.

"Where the clergy have been elected to the Parish Council a golden opportunity is presented to them of making the Church more popular in country villages, than, we fear, she often is now. When the rustic folk see that their parish priest is as keen to promote their secular interests as he is eager to help their spiritual growth, they will not be long before they trust him completely."

The Rev. G. A. S. Adams, curate of St. Paul's and St. Martin's, Canterbury, has been presented by Lord Wynford to the vicarage of Erith, Kent.

A new silver chalice and paten have been presented by an anonymous donor to the church of St. John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet, as a Christmas offering. They are both beautiful and costly works of art.

The Church Defence Institution has received a legacy of £1,000, less duty £100, under the will of the late Rev. W. B. Hawkins.

A number of friends of the late beloved Bishop Pelham were invited to the Deanery the other day to consider what, if anything, should be done to perpetuate his memory. After the matter had been carefully considered, it was resolved to endeavour to gather funds to erect in the Cathedral a recumbent effigy on a cenotaph, and in purest statuary marble. The working out of the project was entrusted to the Dean, who has received such substantial support that a public meeting to raise funds will not be necessary. There are, however, many in the community who would feel aggrieved if they were denied an opportunity of showing alike their affection for Bishop Pelham and their interest in honouring the memory of one whose work and character endeared him to all classes. To such the opportunity of contributing is now offered. Subscriptions are not limited. No list will be published. Sympathising friends will facilitate and perfect the work if they will kindly forward their contributions to the Dean.

We announce with regret the death of the Right Rev. James Atlay, D.D., Bishop of Hereford. The Bishop, who had been ill for some months, died rather suddenly on Monday morning. Last week he took a fresh cold, but on Saturday he was reported to be much better. On Sunday, however, he became worse. Death was due to bronchitis, accelerated by a cold he had contracted. The late Bishop, who was the son of the Rev. Henry Atlay, a Lincolnshire rector, was born on July 3rd, 1817, and with the exception of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, had been a member of the Episcopal Bench of the English Church for a longer period than any other Prelate. The late Bishop felt keenly what he regarded as the injustice of the disestablishment of the Irish Church, looking upon it as the beginning of sorrow for the Church of England. He was a cautious, kindly, hospitable Prelate of a school which has almost entirely passed away, beloved not less by the laity than by the clergy of his quiet Diocese. What he had to do he always did thoroughly. In politics the Bishop was a strong Conservative, and on all occasions possible his lordship was a peacemaker.

Suffolk Churchmen will learn with deep regret of the death, which took place on Wednesday at Combe Martin House, Upper Tooting, of the Rev. Wm. John Edge, M.A., in his 82nd year. The deceased clergyman was formerly vicar of Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting; vicar of Benenden, Kent; and rector of Waldringfield, Suffolk. A great portion of Mr. Edge's long and useful live was spent in Suffolk, where he was highly esteemed by his many friends.

The village of Wherstead has lately been enriched by several alterations and improvements at the ancient church, which stands surrounded by its picturesque churchyard, overlooking the valley of the Orwell. This parish is celebrated, not only for the romantic beauty of its site, but also for having been so long the home of the well-known author, in many branches of literature, Foster Barham Zincke, for more than half a century curate and vicar of Wherstead. In his memory a large circle of friends from all parts of the country have lately erected a durable and happily chosen memorial, in the form of a lych gate, standing at the N.W. angle of the churchyard. It is of solid oak on a stone foundation, and was designed by Mr. John Corder of Ipswich, and constructed at a cost of over £100 by Mr. Friend, of Princes Street. The style is of the late Gothic, as are also the main features of the church. An inscription is carved on the interior wallplate.—"In memory of Foster Barnham Zincke, Vicar and Historian of Wherstead. With his voice and with his pen he constantly laboured in the service of humanity." It was dedicated in October last in the presence of many of the subscribers and parishioners, Lord John Hervey giving a short address under the gate itself, and after an appropriate service in the church a sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by the Rev. Canon Bulstrode.

One good work often leads on to another, and not many weeks elapsed before a magnificent brass eagle-lectern was placed in the church, supplying a want long felt, as the prayer-desk hitherto used was not commodiously situated for reading the lessons. The cost was a little over £40, and was defrayed chiefly by the Dowager Lady Tollemache and by the parishioners and their friends. The lectern was chosen from the studio of Messrs. Benham and Froud, Chandos Street, London. About the same time a pair of handsome polished brass candlesticks and altar vases were presented as a memorial of the late Col. G. Wilkinson, whose sudden death at Wherstead last summer will be recollected. A plain but beautiful altar cross has been presented by Mr. C. Dashwood, of Wherstead. Hanging lamps of polished brass and ecclesiastical design, also from Messrs. Benham and Froud, the generous gift of Mr. Quilter, have just been supplied; and with that the list of improvements closes, and the little church, completely and carefully restored in 1863, is now provided with everything, both ornamental and useful, needful for the reverent performance of Divine worship.

CHANGE RINGING AT DISS.

On Wednesday evening a mixed company of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers visited this town and rang upon the tuneful bells, in excellent style, a true and complete peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, containing 5,184 changes in three hours and 20 minutes. The band stood as follows:—Messrs. F. C. Clayton, Worlingworth, treble; A. Trollope, Norwich, 2nd; F. G. Meadows, Otley, 3rd; W. G. Crickmer, Soham, 4th; J. Souter, Diss, 5th; E. Clayton, Worlingworth, 6th; W. Flory, Framlingham, 7th; and F. Day, Eye, tenor. The peal, composed by Mr. H. Johnson, of Birmingham, was conducted by Mr. W. G. Crickmer. Weight of tenor 24 cwt., in the key of D. These bells were cast in the year 1833 at Downham, and have just been rehung by Messrs. G. Day and Son, church bell hangers, of Eye.

TATTINGSTONE: RE-OPENING OF THE BELLS.

Special services were held in the parish church on Sunday on the occasion of the re-opening of the bells. The preacher at morning service was the Rector, who deduced wholesome lessons from bells and bell-ringing, and in the afternoon the Rev. H. W. Beauchamp, rural dean, delivered an eloquent sermon, bearing upon the history and uses of bells in Divine service. The choir gave a spirited rendering of Dr. Bates' "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis," and also sang special hymns and psalms in a highly creditable manner. The voluntaries during the day were—(a), "Andante" (Calkin); (b), "Commemoration March" (Scotson Clark); (c), "Cantabile" (Capocci); (d), "Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel). Organist, Mr. G. Ware. The peal of five bells have been entirely re-hung in a new English oak frame, to carry and contain six bells all hung on one level, and constructed in a very rigid manner, so as to avoid any oscillation when the bells are rung. The bells have been retuned and hung with new headstocks, steel gudgeons, gun-metal bearings, stays, rollers and ropes. They have also been quarter turned and fitted with reverse staples, so as to allow the clappers to strike on a fresh portion of the bells. The clappers are also new, and are made of the best Low Moor iron, and work on improved clapper joints. The whole of the work has been carried out in a most efficient manner by Messrs. Henry Bowell and Son, bell-founders, &c., Ipswich. The bells bear the following inscriptions:—1st, 2nd, and 3rd, "John Darbie made me, 1661"; 4th, "Thomas Mears, of London, Fecit, 1795"; 5th, "Ransomes and Sims made me, 1853." The tenor weighs about 12 cwts. During the day ringers from Ipswich, Sproughton, Great Bentley, and Little Bentley rang peals of Grandsire and Plain Doubles; Steadman's and Simonds' Doubles. The ringers were entertained by the Rector and by Mr. Roger Kerrison, of Tattingstone Place.

CHANGE RINGING AT STOWMARKET.

On Boxing Day, eight members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, visited Stowmarket Church for the purpose of attempting a peal on the newly re-hung bells, which they accomplished in a very creditable manner in 3 hours and 16 minutes, stationed as follows:—H. Bowell 1, W. Motts 2, I. S. Alexander 3, E. Reeve 4, A. Brighten (Norwich) 5, W. L. Catchpole 6, J. Motts 7, A. Bowell 8. The peal was Mr. J. Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. J. Motts. The Rector afterwards congratulated the ringers on their success.

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH IN WALES.

The progress of the Church in Wales during the last fifty years is shown in a tabular form by the Bishop of St. Asaph, and combining the information furnished by his summary with some derived from other sources, we find that within the last fifty years—(1) the number of clergy in the Welsh Church has exactly doubled; that (2) the number of children in the Church Sunday Schools has increased nearly sixfold; that (3) during the last ten years the number of communicants has increased by more than one-half; that (4) candidates for confirmation, of which, from 1882 to 1892, the average number had been between 9,000 and 10,000, were in 1893 11,500; that (5) of the more than 22,000 funerals conducted in Wales since the Burials Act in 1880, 20,600 have been performed by clergymen, and that during the last quarter of a century the marriages in church have exceeded those celebrated in the chapels by 43,000, while during the years 1891 and 1892 the average of Church marriages shows an increase over the average of the previous twenty-five years of nearly 1,000. These figures are out of all proportion to any increase in the population which, during the last twenty years, has taken place.—From "The Church in Wales," in "Blackwood's Magazine" for January, 1895.

WALES NOT A NATION OF NONCONFORMISTS.

The official year-books of the four denominations of Welsh Dissenters all agree in claiming only 47 per cent. of the population as Nonconformists, which, curiously enough, though this no doubt is a mere accident, corresponds exactly to the proportion of votes polled for Liberationist candidates at the last election. They claim, then, less than half of the population. The second fact is that, out of 1,161,699 of the Welsh population who speak English, the Nonconformists claim only 36,000! Taking these figures as they stand, they yield a considerable majority in favour of the Church. But leaving an ample margin for error, they still show that the habit of calling Wales a nation of Nonconformists is perfectly ridiculous. The Dissenters themselves are perfectly well aware of this, and for this reason have very wisely resisted all proposals for a religious census. Their own press is witness to their apprehensions on this score.—From "The Church in Wales," in "Blackwood's Magazine" for January, 1895.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, IPSWICH.

The iron church which is to serve the purposes of worship in the new district of St. Bartholomew pending the building of the new church founded and endowed by Mrs. Spooner (*née* Anna Cobbold), wife of the Very Rev. E. Spooner, of Hadleigh, was opened on Friday last. Many years ago the father of the late Mr. E. H. Alston, Framlingham, reserved a piece of land on the Rose Hill Road estate for the purpose of building a church. With this, for many years, nothing was done, but shortly after the Rev. W. H. Williamson came to Holy Trinity there was a readjustment of boundaries of the district, and the church at the junction of the Fore and Back Hamlets, never very centrally situated, became more at the extreme end of the district than ever. The Vicar communicated with the late Mr. E. H. Alston, who respected the wishes of his father, and the Bishop very strongly urged the erection of a new church there. This for a district containing only half a dozen houses rated above £20 was rather a large undertaking, and but little progress would probably have been made but for Mrs. Spooner's generous offer to build and endow a church in memory of her parents at a total cost to herself of £12,000, to serve a portion of Holy Trinity district, to be named St. Bartholomew. The district has been formed some five months, and the Rev. G. A. Cobbold has been appointed incumbent. The new building has been erected by Mr. George Stephenson, of Hadleigh, to hold 300 people, and is match-boarded within. It is heated by six chancel gas stoves, and arrangements have been made for lighting and ventilation. It will subsequently serve as a parish-room. The work, which commenced only six weeks ago, has been expeditiously carried out. Much has been done towards the organisation of the parish work by Mr. Geo. Smith, churchwarden. The building was opened at a well-attended service, when a sermon was given by the Very Rev. Dean Spooner.

ORDINATIONS IN NORWICH DIOCESE.

At a general ordination holden by the Right Rev. John, Lord Bishop of Norwich, in the Cathedral Church of Norwich, on St. Thomas's Day, the 21st inst., the following gentlemen were admitted into Holy Orders, viz.:—Deacons: George Edward Alvis, M.A., Christ's College, Cambridge, Edward Bertie Hartley Berwick, B.A., St. Catharine's College, Cambridge; Edwin Brooshooft Brown, B.A., Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge; Christopher Hudson Moreland, M.A., Lincoln College, Oxford; Charles Thomas Mourilyan, B.A., Wadham College, Oxford; Charles Richmond Poole, B.A., Durham University; Cecil Samuel Quainton, B.A., Queen's College, Cambridge; Arthur Charles Rogers, B.A., Keble College, Oxford; William Lambert Shacklock, B.A., Oxford University; Edward Austin Smith, B.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge. Priests: Augustus Dixwell Alderson, B.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Peter Cyril Brown, St. John's Hall, Highbury; Walter Clements, B.A., St. Peter's College and Ridley Hall, Cambridge; Herbert Maclean Cooper, B.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge; Thomas Cyril Dale, B.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and Cuddesdon College; Henry Charles Finch, B.A., University College, Oxford, and Leeds Clergy School; James Ernest Pease, B.A., Pembroke College, Cambridge; Edwin Vernon Smith, B.A., Pembroke College, Cambridge; William Alfred Smith, St. John's Hall, Highbury; Edwin Jackson Stuart, St. John's College, Cambridge, and L. Th. Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Thetford, and the Gospel was read by the Rev. Christopher H. Moreland, M.A., one of the newly-ordained deacons. Afterwards, on the same day, the following gentlemen were licensed to curacies:—The Revs. G. E. Alvis, M.A., to West Winch, Norfolk; E. B. H. Berwick, B.A., to Aldeburgh, Suffolk; E. B. Brown, B.A., to Pakefield, Suffolk; C. H. Moreland, M.A., to Scarning, Norfolk; C. T. Mourulyan, B.A., to Denton, Norfolk; C. R. Poole, B.A., to East Dereham and Hoe, Norfolk; C. S. Quainton, B.A., to Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; A. C. Rogers, B.A., to St. Margaret and St. Nicholas, King's Lynn, Norfolk; W. L. Shacklock, B.A., to West Walton, Norfolk; E. A. Smith, B.A., to Grimston, Norfolk.

OTHER ORDINATIONS.

Mr. Herbert Owen Ransome, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, youngest son of Mr. James Edward Ransome, of Ipswich, was ordained on Friday by the Bishop of Peterborough, and has been licensed to St. Matthew's, Leicester. On Sunday the Rev. P. R. Preston, one of the curates at St. Mary's parish church, Chelmsford, was ordained priest by the Bishop of the Diocese at Bishop Stortford.

AN ANCIENT ROOD SCREEN AT WOODBRIDGE.

Over a year and a half ago, Mr. A. Helsham Jones, of Pinner Hill, Pinner, on his own behalf as well as those of his sister and brother, applied to the Rev. S. B. Field (the then rector of Woodbridge) for sanction to restore the rood screen in the church in memory of their father. The proposal was heartily received by the Rector and parishioners, and a faculty was applied for and granted. The donors placed the work in the hands of Mr. J. A. Kent, of Sheffield, who has just completed the restoration work to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. The new part of the screen, which is 31 feet in length and nine feet high, is entirely of oak, and is in the Renaissance Gothic style with 12 eliptical cluster columns, resting on the old existing base, and crocketed arches, above which is a beautiful frieze of grapes and leaves, emblematic of plenty, and these are relieved by six cherub heads, the whole being surmounted by a chaste cresting. There are four large and four small buttresses, each of which is finished with light and elegant square-cut pinnacles, and above the centre crocketed arch springs a Latin cross. The whole work has been very lightly treated, the back part facing the chancel being almost as handsome as the front, and the screen now forms

A CONSPICUOUS ORNAMENT

to the sacred edifice. The present rector (Rev. W. W. Jones), alluding to the erection of the screen, said he had hoped that the Bishop of Norwich would have been able to visit Woodbridge on its completion and preach in the church, but his Lordship wrote regretting his inability to come at this particular time. The Bishop, however, wishes the Rector to communicate with him in the course of a few weeks, when his engagements will be less numerous, and it is probable that a dedication service will be held early in the new year. The old portion of the screen, upon which the new superstructure is erected, was discovered at the restoration of the church in 1874 (when the unsightly galleries were removed), and is simply the base of the screen, some 4ft. high, the upper portion of it having been destroyed—how long ago it is impossible to say, but at any rate at a time anterior to the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

THE LATIN INSCRIPTION,

a portion of which only can be deciphered—seems to have been as follows:—"Orate pro animabus Johannis Albrede et Agnetis consortis suœ qui Soluerunt pro pictura totius hujus operis *superni ventis* videlicit crucis crucifixi Marie Archangelorum totius candelabri," the meaning of which (with the exception of the words in italics, which seem untranslatable) is as follows:—"Pray for the souls of John Albrede and Agnes, his wife, who paid for the painting of this whole work, viz., the cross, crucifix, Mary, archangels, and the whole chandelier." The Albrede is probably the same, who by his will, dated April 4th, 1448, left 20 "marks" towards the building of the steeple, so that the screen is over 400 years old. With regard to the saints intended to be represented, opinions differ very widely; a few have the name inscribed, others are easily recognised from their familiar symbols, others again are difficult to identify with certainty.

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CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES.

IPSWICH.

In the metropolis the tendency of late has been to give up the heavier and more elaborate decorations in favour of simpler but not less effective treatment. In the provincial towns the same tendency is gradually making itself felt, and was more or less evident in the treatment of the Ipswich churches.—The altar at St. Mary-le-Tower was provided with new candelabra, the gift of the Vicar, and these handsome ornaments were much admired. Both here and at St. Margaret's Church some very pretty work was done.—At St. Mary Stoke the pleasant duty was successfully undertaken by Mrs. Drummond and Mrs. Hipwell (pulpit), Miss Grimsey, Miss Gower, and Miss Ward (font and altar), and Miss M. F. Mason and the Misses Ward (windows).—At St. Mary Elms the workers were Mrs. A. W. Van Den Bergh (east end), Mrs. S. S. Hoyland, and the Misses Turner (2), pulpit and font, the Misses Scrivener and Harrison (gas standards), and Miss E. Fraser (windows). Gifts of material were sent by Mrs. Archer, Messrs. J. B. Fraser, Peter Bruff, J. Flower, and others. The text over the altar was worked by Mr. F. W. Everson.—St. Clement's Church requires a large amount of work, but the band of helpers was fully equal to the occasion; they were Miss Ridley and Miss Curling, east end; Miss Christopherson, pulpit; Miss Gooding, lectern; Miss Schreiber, windows; Miss Sizer and Miss Southgate, font; the Misses Miller, reading-desk; Mr. E. Powell and Mr. E. Knights, pillars.—St. Michael's texts were prepared by the Misses Brown, Miss Clayton, Mrs. Parker, Miss Welburn, and Mr. A. A. Welburn. The other decorators were the Misses Ward and the Misses Garrard, pulpit and lectern; and Miss Bleakley and Miss Damant, font.—At St. Helen's, the decorations, including ecclesiastical designs, were done by the Rev. F. W. B. Symons and Mrs. Symons, the Misses Jefferies, Mrs. and the Misses Elkington, Miss Airey, Miss Crannis, Miss M. Snell, Mr. E. Cooke, and Mr. E. G. Wainwright.—The principal workers at St. Matthew's Church were Mrs. Cubitt and Miss Anness (screen and pulpit), Miss Sidgwick (altar), and Miss Mills (font).—At St. Peter's Church a great deal of trouble was taken, as usual, with satisfactory results. The ladies assisting were Miss F. Brown (pulpit), Miss M. L. Brown (lectern and reading-desk), Mrs. Berry (pillars), Miss South (choir stalls), Miss Cassie Mason (font), Mrs. Haggar and Miss Batteley organ and windows.—The bareness of St. Nicholas Church was relieved very happily by decorations, done as in previous years under the direction of Miss Ellen Jackaman, the ladies aiding her being the Misses Birch (east windows), Mrs. Jelleye (pulpit), the Misses Worts (lectern), Mrs. Chapman (font), the Misses Bunn (pillars), and Miss Clarke and the Misses Trodd.—At St. Lawrence Church the texts on the walls were especially creditable. The workers were—Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Cobb, reading desk; Miss Hunnibell, font; Miss Cooke and Miss Florrie Jarvis, pulpit; Mrs. King and Miss M. White, chancel and gas standards; Mrs. Whelan, Mrs. Leach, and Miss Craske, nave and windows; Mrs. Haxell and Miss Holmes, lectern.—The decorations at Holy Trinity Church were peculiarly tasteful, a large amount of trouble being taken to make the old building look as well as could be. Among those who assisted in preparing materials were the Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Williamson, Miss Bessie Rayner, Miss Wilson, Miss Lily Bisshopp, Miss Violet Bisshopp, Mrs. Dipper, Miss Baker, Miss Masterson, Mrs. Wilson, and Miss Turner. The other helpers at the church included the Misses Roberts, the Rev. J. H. Jennings (curate), Mr. J. Rayner (churchwarden), Mr. F. H. Orvis, Mr. C. A. Groom, Mr. A. Harvey, Mr. W. Airey, Mr. F. Manthorpe, Mr. T. Bisshopp, and Mr. J. Harvey. It is gratifying to the congregation to learn that of the £2,000 required for the restoration and enlargement of the church, nearly £1,000 has, within the last month, been promised.—The decoration of St. Stephen's Church was undertaken by Miss Cornell and Miss G. Clark, pulpit; Miss Christie, reading-desk; Mrs. C. W. Sutton, font; Miss Lilian Christie, choir and stalls; the Misses Cullingham, windows; and Miss Livock, gas burners. At St. John's the workers were Mrs. and Miss Ransome, east end; Miss Botwood, pulpit; Miss King and Miss Bendall, windows; Miss Cooper, reading-desk and gas standard; Mrs. Gower, font; and Mrs. Chevalier, lectern.—At St. Pancras Catholic Church a special object of interest was the "crib" representing the stable at Bethlehem, with the Saviour lying in the manger. The midnight mass was attended by a large congregation.—On Christmas morning, the service at All Saints was full choral, and was opened by the choir singing, "The story of the Nativity," a cycle of five carols by Dr. C. W. Pearce, viz., "The Midnight Message," "The Angel Chorus," "The Adoration of the Shepherds," "Adoration of the Magi," and "The Watching Church." The words are most appropriate, and the music effective and pleasing. Dyce's "Te Deum" was also given, and the anthem was Isaiah xl., 9, "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, &c.," and the Latin hymn, "O, that Birth for ever blessed, &c.," written by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens in the 5th century, selection and hymn being arranged by Sir John Stainer as an anthem. The decorations included the communion rails, choir stalls, chancel window, and pulpit, all effectively and chastely adorned. The beautiful new font had much attention devoted to it, and was decorated with the most exquisite taste and skill. We cannot justly describe it. A carol service was given in the afternoon, after shortened evening service. The junior portion of the choir sang very sweetly their alloted portion.

BILDESTON.

The parish church was decorated for the Christmas services with great care and taste. The Rev. J. Gaston-Harrison (curate) had invited the parishioners to bring offerings of evergreens, winter flowers, and of monograms and designs suitable for decoration, and this invitation met with a hearty response. The following ladies assisted:—The altar and altar rails, Mrs. J. G. Harrison; pulpit, Mrs. Honeywill and sisters; reading-desk and lectern, the Misses Growse; font, Mrs. F. Emerson, Miss Emerson, and Miss Scarfe; windows, the Misses Sidney and Mrs. G. Hawkins. Mr. J. Crickmore sent two handsome monograms for adorning the sanctuary.

BURSTALL.

The church of St. Mary's, Burstall, was very handsomely decorated for the Christmas festivities. The east end, the work of Mrs. H. G. Haggar, was prettily decorated with choice pot plants and cut flowers, with evergreens and moss. Over the altar table is the text, "Glory to God in the Highest," and the choir stalls are also liberally treated. The chancel screen, which is in itself a splendid example of old oak carving, is brightened by a succession of five small arches, decorated with pot plants at the base, and cut flowers and evergreens, with trailing ivy, and above is the text, "His name shall be called the Prince of Peace," in white letters on a scarlet background, and over the centre arch is "Wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God," in gold letters on a scarlet background, with pampas grass and dried palms on either side. The lectern and pulpit come in for special treatment, and consist of red and white alternate panels with various designs, and cut chrysanthemums, arranged in hanging vases, making the whole very effective. The nave of the sacred edifice is also well and elaborately done; the pillars are trailed with evergreens, and the windows with cut flowers and suitable texts, worked mostly in white moss on scarlet background. The whole decoration has taken considerable time in preparation, and is the work of Miss Collins and Miss Norfolk, assisted by other willing workers in the parish.

CAPEL ST. MARY.

The interior of the parish church looked charming in its decorative dress, the font, pulpit, and choir stalls being the most conspicuous. This work was ably carried out by the following:—Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and children, indoor and outdoor servants at the Rectory, Mrs. M. Pickess, Mr. R. Death, Mrs. J. Cole, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Miss Webb, of the School House. The services of the day were very bright, and consisted of early celebration of the Holy Eucharist, matins (with a suitable address from the Rector), a choral celebration of Holy Communion, and a shortened choral evensong, followed by carols. Mrs. Johnson presided at the organ. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were not unmindful of the wants of the poor parishioners. Good dinners of hot roast beef and plum pudding were served out to the widows, widowers, old people, and the sick at the Rectory, those who were not able to fetch it having it sent to them. In this way many homes were cheered by the kindness and forethought of the Rector and his wife.

CHATTISHAM.

This little church looked very attractive on Christmas Day. On the altar were two vases of lovely flowers, with the usual floral cross in the centre. The east window was decorated with an abundance of light honesty, which had a pretty effect. On one side of the window were the words "The King of Glory," and on the other side "The Prince of Peace," worked with evergreen and berries on red ground, which was edged with the same. The pulpit, as usual, looked very pretty, being ornamented with holly, red and yellow berries, and the centre of each panel had a white star on red ground. Evergreens and honesty adorned the windows, and in one was a large white star. The font was gracefully wreathed with holly and red berries round the centre, with a row of the same above and below, and surmounted with honesty. There were also triangles of evergreens in the west end, with a text on red ground—"He shall guide our feet into the way of Peace." The decorators were:—Mrs. Haward, and her son Mr. Henry Haward, the east end; Mrs. Coppen, the altar, pulpit and windows; Mrs. Vince, the font, &c.; and Mrs. Woods, the triangles. Holy Communion was celebrated at eight o'clock and at mid-day, and in the afternoon the vicar (Rev. H. A. Walker) preached an excellent sermon. On the same day the old people of Chattisham were the recipients of a very nice dinner kindly sent from the vicarage to each home.

CLARE.

The parish church was neatly decorated for the Christmas festival with evergreens relieved with flowers and the silvery sprays of pampas grass. The service in the morning of Christmas Day was fully choral, and Stainer's anthem, "O Zion, that bringest good tidings," was rendered by the choir.

CLOPTON.

The joyous festival was duly observed. The bells rang out an early peal till eight o'clock, when there was a celebration of Holy Communion. All the ringers are communicants, and altogether about twenty partook of the Holy Sacrament. Service was held at 11 o'clock, when there was a large congregation, and the Rector gave a short address on "The gift of God." There were over 30 communicants at the second celebration. In the afternoon a short, bright, and hearty service was held at 3.30, and a large congregation was present. The Church was beautifully adorned by the housekeeper, assisted by Sunday scholars. One new feature was a temporary chancel screen, covered with holly and ivy. This gave quite a character to the church. The Rev. S. Hooke as usual invited over twenty of the parishioners to tea at the Rectory, the oldest among them being 81 years of age. After tea they seemed quite young again, and played some Christmas games. At ten o'clock the Rector gave an address, and all departed home. On Thursday the Sunday scholars had their Christmas tea and tree, and the choir boys were each presented with a Bible.

EYE.

The beautiful parish church of Eye on Christmas Day presented a striking contrast to the weather outside, which was mild, dull, and gloomy, with a dense fog hanging overhead. Inside the sacred edifice, however, all was bright and cheerful. The decorations were of a very beautiful description, the font, pulpit, reading-desk, and lectern having all been artistically treated with evergreens, intermixed with white chrysanthemums, Christmas roses, pink geraniums, and maiden-hair fern. A very handsome bouquet of these blooms and ferns adorned the front of the lectern. A cross was suspended from the front of the bookshelf of the prayer-desk, and another large one surmounted the main arch of the old screen. Groups of firs were placed within the altar rails, and for the first time altar ornaments, including jewelled candlesticks and a cross, adorned the retable. All the capitals of the pillars were clothed with massive wreaths of evergreen festooned with ivy. All the window-sills were covered with crimson cloth, bearing the texts, "Emmanuel," "God with us," "For, behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy." The ringers having ushered in the day with a merry peal, the first full choral celebration of the Holy Communion ever known to be held in the church took place at eight o'clock, the celebrants being the vicar (Rev. A. J. Spencer), assisted by the curate (Rev. W. H. Chambers), at which there was a large attendance of communicants. This was followed by full choral Matins at eleven o'clock, the anthem being, "And the glory of the Lord," from the "Messiah." The whole of the music was admirably rendered by the choir, and in a manner which reflected much credit upon all concerned, especially Mr. F. W. Bray, the organist and choirmaster. A short but appropriate sermon was delivered by the Vicar, after which there was a second celebration.

HINTLESHAM.

The decorations at this church, though on a smaller scale than usual, were very pretty. The greatest attraction is the handsome temporary screen between the chancel and nave. It consists of five large arches of evergreens, greatly relieved by pampas grass, and surmounted by a large cross of the same grass. The panels of the pulpit are wreathed with variegated holly, and bunches of holly berries in the centres. The font is edged with wreaths of variegated holly, with ivy trailing down to the steps in a most natural manner. A cross of evergreens interspersed with honesty is placed on the top. Wreaths encircle the tops of the massive pillars. On each side of the west door is trellis-work of evergreens, finished off with masses of evergreens over the top of the belfry screen. The whole has a very pleasing effect, and reflects great credit upon those engaged in the work, the Rev. W. Deane, Wm. Green, and Arthur Green.

LEISTON.

Special services were held in St. Margaret's Church, Leiston, on Wednesday, the Rev. B. W. Raven officiating. In the afternoon carols were sung, Mr. J. E. Blakemore, the organist, conducting.

ORFORD.

The services at the parish church were in full keeping with the festive season, and the old edifice was tastefully decorated. Large quantities of beef, flannel, &c., were as usual distributed in the district, and thankfully received.

SOUTHWOLD.

The church was very tastefully robed with Christmas foliage, and the service on Christmas morning was particularly bright and cheerful. A processional hymn was sung, and the anthem, "O Zion, that bringest good tidings," was creditably rendered by the choir. The offertory was on behalf of the bellringers, who are paid by the churchwardens. The sermon was preached by the vicar, the Rev. C. H. Sutton.

STRADBROKE.

Early on Tuesday morning there was some very pretty chiming in the tower to usher in the festive season of Christmas. A service was held in the parish church, which was tastefully decorated. The Rev. Canon Tate, vicar, preached an excellent sermon, his subject being "Emmanuel." In the evening the drum and fife band, which has lately been started, paraded the streets and enlivened the town with carols in a style which, for the short time they have been practising, did the young people great credit.

STUTTON.

The decorations at the parish church were not so elaborate as in previous years, but they were very effective. A temporary screen of evergreen and rushes formed a prominent feature of the decorations, and the font, pulpit, and east window were much admired. There was a good attendance at the early celebration, and the morning service was very hearty, the Rector preaching a very appropriate sermon. The collection was given towards a fund for the distribution of coals to the poor of the parish.

WICKHAM MARKET.

As is usual at this festive season the parish church was very tastefully decorated on Christmas Day by several ladies of the congregation. Although warm and cosy the decorations made the old edifice look wintry-like, but outside was all fog and gloom. Mrs. Tice's money charity of 5s. each to poor widows was distributed by the Vicar and churchwardens after the service.

YOXFORD.

The parish church of St. Peter's was very prettily decorated for Christmas. Those who assisted in the decorating were Lady Blois, Misses Blois (3), Miss Dalby, Miss Cotton, Misses Girling (2), Miss Rose, Miss Gorham, and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

⁂ This column is open for the free expression of our readers' opinions on matters to which it is desirable publicity should be given. We expect all letters to be free from verbiage and strictly to the point. It must be understood, however, that we do not identify ourselves with the opinions of correspondents.

IPSWICH WEST END BURGLARIES.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—During the past two years we have had as many as ten burglaries in this locality, and I think it is time that the men of the district formed themselves into a vigilance committee to protect their houses, for, besides the likelihood of losing our necessaries and many a treasured article, wives and daughters are terrified lest they should be the next victims.—Yours truly,

Norwich Road, A WIFE.
December 27th.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—The House of Lords, its composition, powers, and rights, is a subject of paramount importance and interest, and it is incumbent on the part of all Conservatives to become thoroughly acquainted with its origin and history, in order that they may be qualified to answer the calumnious attacks made by the most determined and unscrupulous opponents, who never shrink at any mean attempt to estrange that noble House from the hearts and affections of a loyal and contented people. Since the year 1830 three hundred and thirty-six peers have been created by various premiers for services rendered to party and country. The following are the peerages created since that year:—

Under Liberal Ministries:

Earl Grey	1830–34	45
Viscount Melbourne	1835–41	37
Lord John Russell	1846–52	12
Earl of Aberdeen	1853–55	1
Lord Palmerston	1855–58	12
Ditto	1859–65	15
Earl Russell	1865–68	8
Mr. Gladstone	1868–74	39
Ditto	1880–85	28
Ditto	1886	8
Ditto	1892–93	9
Ditto	1894	2
Total		217

Under Conservative Ministries:—

Sir Robert Peel	1834–35	6
Ditto	1841–46	6
Earl Derby	1852	3
Ditto	1858–59	10
Ditto	1866–68	7
Mr. Disraeli	1869	9
Earl Beaconsfield	1874–80	29
Marquis of Salisbury	1886	11
Ditto	1886–92	38
Total		119

The political composition of the House of Lords is as follows:—Conservatives, 336; Liberal Unionists, 91; Gladstonians, 42; unclassified, 31; politics not stated, 53; minors, 14; total, 567. Objections have been raised by its detractors against the Upper House on the ground of its being Conservative; therefore it ought and must be abolished. Such objections are childish and are often made by those who are ignorant of the principles of Conservatism. But why is it Conservative? Liberal Ministers have been lavish in their creation of peerages, while Conservative Ministers have been the opposite, the former having raised to the peerage 217 of their most ardent and devoted followers, while the latter can only claim to their credit 119. This incontrovertible fact should be borne in mind by Radicals themselves when wondering why the House of Lords is so Conservative. The members there are free from the trammels and shackles of petty tyranny and abject slavery, and exercise a freedom of judgment born of intelligence and manhood. Again, 114 of its members have been governors of colonies, judges or ambassadors, who, in their various spheres of life, have served their country faithfully and well. There are also 126 County Councillors, who lend dignity, manliness, and influence to the various Councils of which they are not figureheads only, but useful, honourable, and worthy members, and have in the past brought to bear those intellectual qualities and talents so indispensable to the proper grasp, conception, and impartial consideration and requirements of the various classes of the people forming the constituencies they have been elected to represent. There are also 300 magistrates, whose judicial abilities are of no mean order, but such as are calculated to add to and raise the moral tone and dignity of the Bench, thus ensuring a just and impartial administration of the law to all classes alike. Lord Tweedmouth, addressing a Liberal Conference at Manchester on Friday, November 2nd, in speaking of the House of Lords, delivered himself as follows:—"They had collected in the House of Lords a large number of very able men, men who had done great and efficient service to their country.—*Manchester Guardian* (Radical), November 3rd, 1894. Again, the Irish Secretary, Mr. J. Morley, in addressing a meeting of Liberals at Rotherham, June 27th, 1894, said: There are able and powerful men in the House of Lords, who contribute materially to both sides of politics and the weight of dignity to our discussions.—*Sheffield and Rotherham Independent* (Radical), June 28th, 1894.—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM RACKHAM.

Sudbourne,
December 16th, 1894.

IMPORTANT TO LADIES.—Madame Worth's celebrated Guinea Corsets (black 25s.) may be obtained from her Local Agents, Messrs. Fish and Son, Suffolk House, Ipswich.

MEXICAN CURE,

KNOWN as REV. JOSEPH HOLMES' Mexican Prescription, is the only guaranteed Remedy for all those who suffer from the errors of youth, nervous weakness, exhausted vitality, kidney, bladder, gravel, prostrate and kindred complaints, and has stood the test for twenty years. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Jos. Holmes' Remedy Co., Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London, and get full particulars of this great Remedy free of charge.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

IPSWICH.

According to a French philosopher the difference between a rich man and a poor one is that the one needs an appetite for his dinner and the other a dinner for his appetite. The gourmet supplied with the most costly delicacies might envy the poor children of Ipswich the zest of enjoyment with which they take the large square meal of roast beef and plum pudding provided for them every year. Each Christmas Day about half-past twelve o'clock the approaches to the Corn Exchange and the Public Hall are besieged by crowds of eager childish faces, waiting for the great family party of the poor. The cost of entertaining these young people, who number altogether 1,200, is met by donations, and the arrangements for receiving the guests are made by a committee, of whom Mr. J. H. Grimwade is chairman. The carving and serving are done by a voluntary band of workers, who have a pretty lively half-hour. The joints, as usual, came from Mr. H. Broome's bakery in the Butter Market. Before Grace was sung, with great heartiness if not in very good tune by the company, the Mayor (Dr. Bartlet) wished the children "a merry Christmas, a happy new year—and a very good dinner." Each child was presented with a bag of nuts and oranges on leaving the building, while Mr. E. Herbert Fison added a special gift of costume crackers, with coins fresh from the mint. Before separating, the assembly made the building ring with cheering for the subscribers and helpers.—At the Hospital every effort was made to brighten the surroundings of those whose lot it was to lie on beds of suffering. The decoration of the wards was undertaken by the sisters and nurses in charge, while in the chapel ecclesiastical emblems and texts were worked by Sisters Deane, Hopper, and Rocke. The treatment of the children's wing by Sister Rocke and her band of helpers was especially effective, and the mysterious visit of Santa Claus was as much appreciated as a fortune. The matron of the Institution (Mrs. Francis), and the house surgeon (Mr. J. L. Dalby), the assistant house surgeon (Mr. C. Edwards), and the staff, on Wednesday evening, arranged

A VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT

in the Boardroom. Every child and nearly all the other patients were present. The room had been elaborately decorated, and one of the most enjoyable events of the evening was a distribution of gifts from two large Christmas trees. At the close Mr. J. L. Dalby called for three cheers for the Matron. Mrs. Francis, in response, said the sisters and nurses had spared no effort to secure the success of the entertainment.—At the Borough Asylum the decorations were fully as elaborate as in former years, and this is saying a good deal as great pains have on previous occasions been taken there. The walls of the dining-hall were covered with evergreens, texts, and compliments, prepared by the patients and attendants under the supervision of Mrs. Ager. The male galleries were decorated with trailing evergreens and holly, with coloured festoons. The female wards were made peculiarly bright and attractive, Miss Steward superintending these arrangements. Each ward was treated with a different kind of flowers, and the trailings in the galleries were exceedingly pretty.—To say that St. Peter's Workhouse was made to look bright and cheerful would be a misapplication of terms, as the old buildings can never have about them an air of comfort. Still what could be done was done, and mottoes, flowers, and evergreens greatly relieved the gloom of the walls. The Mayor (Dr. Bartlet), the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. S. R. Anness), Mr. Fisk, Mr. Holroyd, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Paul, the Misses Gower, Mr. and Mrs. Hull Ryde, Mr. Edgar Scrivener, Mr. Brooks and others visited the Institution. The paupers were very grateful for the dessert provided by friends. At St. John's Home the decorations were quite up to the average. Crackers were sent by Mr. E. Herbert Fison. The children at Hope House Orphanage attended St. Michael's Church in the morning on the invitation of the Rev. W. J. Garrould. Each of the children received a new shilling from Mr. Roger Kerrison, and a sixpenny piece from Mr. H. W. Raffe. Cards were sent to the children by Mrs. Edward Grimwade, Mrs. Charles Grimwade, Miss Everett, and by girls formerly belonging to the Institute.

BOSMERE AND CLAYDON WORKHOUSE.

The dining hall, chapel, sick wards, and all the day rooms of the Bosmere and Claydon Workhouse were most effectively decorated, and the general opinion was that the elaborate decorations of the dining hall, executed under the directions of the porter (Mr. Catchpole) surpassed those of any previous year. Special fare was dispensed to the inmates, who were profuse in their thanks both to the Guardians and to the Master and Matron (Mr. and Mrs. Cheeseman). Various presents had been sent from the Rectors of Barham, Offton, and Hemingstone, Mr. Gowing, Mrs. Woodcock Wells, Mrs. Gull, and others.

DEBENHAM.

Early on Tuesday morning the Christmas festival was ushered in by a merry peal on the bells of St. Mary's Church. The Salvation Army also paraded the town head by torches and their band. The parish church was chastely decorated by the following ladies:—Pulpit, the Misses Erskine; reading-desks and choir stalls, the Misses Amass; the altar rails, Miss Duke; east window, Miss Dove; gas standards, the Misses Moulton; the lectern also received attention; the font, Miss Gardner and Miss Page. On the east window was the text "Emanuel, God with us," on the lectern "Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace." The window sills in the chancel were covered with evergreen. Time would not permit of so much being done as is usual. The Vicar conducted three services. Early Communion at eight and 11 a.m., and evensong at 3 p.m. The Vicar preached in the morning upon the incarnation of Christ.—The aged poor of the parish having received an acceptable gift (per Rev. John W. A Duke) from the fund obtained by the sale of work held last week, they desire heartily to thank the Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Duke and all the friends who so kindly helped in the charitable work.

HARTISMERE WORKHOUSE.

The Rev. W. H. Chambers conducted the usual Christmas service at the Workhouse Chapel, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by Mr. and Mrs. Riches, the master and matron, and other officials, while, through the kindness of the Guardians, the inmates enjoyed a substantial dinner of good old Christmas fare besides other indulgencies later on. Amongst those who assisted at the dinner were the Chaplain, the Rev. A. J. Spencer, and Mrs. Spencer, Mr. John Bond, clerk to the Guardians, and the officials, who worked hard to make all as happy as possible.

LEISTON.

On Boxing Day the Leiston Football Club had arranged as usual for an excellent match on their new ground, and this was witnessed by a large crowd. The home team were beaten by the large margin of seven goals to nil, but the visitors played the game in a style which was a treat to witness, and was only marred by an unintentional injury to the popular and hard-working captain of the club, Mr. C. Lincoln.

REDLINGFIELD.

Every cottage fireside in Redlingfield was made bright and cheerful at Christmas, through the generosity of Mr. R. H. Rump, of Eye, who presented a cwt. of coals to each. The coals were kindly carted from Eye free of cost and delivered by Mr. David Reeve, J.P., of Redlingfield Hall.

TATTINGSTONE.

Through the kindness of the Guardians the inmates of the Samford Union were provided with roast beef and plum pudding on Christmas Day. They also received an orange each, and the old men tobacco and the women tea and sugar from Mrs. Berners, of Woolverstone Park. Miss Furniss, of Higham, sent a Christmas letter for each inmate. The hall was very prettily decorated with evergreens and lanterns by the master and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Jarrold, who did everything to make the inmates happy and comfortable.

WICKHAM MARKET WORKHOUSE.

The Guardians as usual at Christmas allowed a bountiful repast of roast beef and plum pudding to the inmates. The dinning-hall was elaborately decorated by Mrs. Mason, and everything was done to make the inmates happy. The master, Mr. George Mason, received various presents from friends in the district which added considerably to the enjoyment of the poor people. Mr. and Mrs. Heffer sent oranges and nuts; Mrs. Farze, tea and sugar; Miss Toller (Saxmundham), a parcel of garments; Mr. Gooderham (Monewden), apples, &c.; Miss Gardner, a scrapbook; Mr. H. Roe, sweets; Mr. Whitmore, nuts, oranges, and tobacco; and Miss Whitbread and Mr. W. Jordan provided substantial Christmas presents for the children. The visitors at dinner included Mr. W. N. Whitmore, J.P., Mrs. Housecroft, and Mr. and Mrs. Rodwell, of Framlingham.

CHRISTMAS IN A SUFFOLK WORKHOUSE.

Some outsiders have a belief that our large Union Houses are a kind of punishment and deprivation cell. Not so; for if any good heart will ever again witness the sight at our Semer Workhouse it testifies to the comforts of a thorough home away from all the dirt, squalor and misery which otherwise they would have been revelling in. Dull as Christmas morning was, yet there was joy and gladness pictured on the countenances of the inmates. One could not but admire and look again and again at the tastefully decorated chapels Listening to Divine service there one felt how little the outside world knows of what good is attempted in these homes established for the poor and needy. On the walls there was holly with its berries, an ivy-mantled pulpit, bushes entwined with snowy wool, all betokening a care and a reverence to a chapel and a chaplain (the Rev. J. E. Foster, M.A.), in whose heart and place dwells the pure love for the poor. Seasonable texts were in abundance, while the well-known hymn "Hark the herald angels" was sung with commendable spirit. Then came the affectionate remarks upon Christmastide. Passing along from the chapel to the dayroom, we again find all hands busy for the festival. Great care had been bestowed by Mr. Whiting here on the adornments of the walls, which almost approached a gallery of pictures—all of which tended to make the saddest heart glad. Infirmary wards, too, were in excellent trim, where the sick are cared for with a care no one could think of but those who have the pleasure of a visit there. Christmastide comes once a year, and it was a deep pleasure to witness our less fortunate friends in their enjoyments. Roast beef of the best quality, mashed potatoes, and plum pudding were served by the expeditious hand of the governor (Mr. Grayston). Beer was also handed round to cheer the old folks, together with tobacco for afternoon enjoyment. Children with their early sorrows and bereavements were not forgotten; oranges, biscuits, nuts, and a plum cake tea, in addition to their rich noon's repast, will help to remind them in after years of the thought that someone remembered them. My observations justify me in complimenting the tact, the energy, and the discipline of the Master and Matron, and their officers on such a well-managed institution, as is very evident in Semer near Hadleigh.—A.B.C.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price. Forty in a vial. Purely Vegetable.

Cure Torpid Liver, Bile, Sallow Complexion, and Sick Headaches promptly: and cure them so as to stay cured. Chemists, 1s. 1½d.

BEAUTIFUL TEETH as for all who use daily on the tooth-brush a few drops of SOZODONT, the pleasantest dentifrice in the world. Cleanses the teeth and spaces between them as nothing else will. Sound and pearly white teeth, rosy lips, and fragrant breath ensured. Ask for SOZODONT. 2s. 6d.

AGRICULTURAL LETTER.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

The suggestion of light railways appears to be one of the latest remedies set forth to benefit the agricultural depression through which we are now passing. The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Bryce, called a short time since a meeting of representatives from several Chambers of Agriculture, and delegates from scientific societies, to consider the pros and cons. of the subject, the outcome of which was, we learn, that a committee was formed, on the proposition of the Duke of Sutherland, consisting of many members of the nobility and practical men, to report as to the advisability of promoting such an object, and, if deemed necessary, that legislative action should be taken at the next Session of Parliament. Mr. Bryce pointed out in his opening remarks that some fifty years since our trunk lines had been constructed. Although since 1868 the total railway mileage of the country had increased 40 per cent., nevertheless, if they looked at the enormous progress applied science had made during that period, they might well feel that all that might have been expected had not been done. He further remarked that any discussion on the subject of State aid was quite out of the question.

A correspondent, writing in the *Land Agents' Record* advocating these light railways, gives the following advantages which would accrue to the farmer and country resident from their adoption:—

1. A great convenience to all classes.
2. A special convenience to those who do not keep a horse or donkey.
3. A means of saving to those who have now to pay for carting on the highways.
4. A possible means of saving to farmers, provided they can dispense with a portion of their cart horses and men in consequence of the increased railway facilities.
5. A means of facilitating the development of a retail trade in certain farm products among the residents in towns.
6. Economy in household and some other expenses to all classes of country people through increased facilities for purchasing goods in towns instead of at village shops.
7. Saving in wheelrights', blacksmiths', and harness-makers' bills.
8. A possible means of bringing down railway rates, and abolishing preference charges on the main lines by the competition of light railways.
9. The saving in the cost of road repairs by the heavy traffic being transferred from the highway to the railways.
10. The encouragement and facilities it would offer to small holders of land.

This idea of light railways is the latest hobby put forward for the salvation of agriculture as a means of maintaining the rural population on the land, and thus diminishing the popular exodus to our large centres. Yet if we look into these ten advantages that are set forth, we find there are five of them that are directly calculated to curtail the rural population. No. 3 dispenses with the local carrier and entirely eradicates the higgler, of whom we have lately heard so much. No. 4 diminishes the number of horsemen employed. No. 5 abolishes the village shopkeeper. No. 7 lessens the number of wheelrights, blacksmiths, and harness-makers. No. 9 would certainly tend to curtail our roadmen, and in all probability these men who have mostly served faithfully on the farm in their earlier days, would find the Workhouse their only resort. It is true there are some districts which sorely need to be nearer railway communication, but by the erection of light railways, laid alongside our country roads, as is in many cases proposed, it seems a great question to me if the inconveniences arising from them would not over-balance the conveniences derived; also it is to be feared that very few farmers would be enabled to curtail their expenditure by their introduction.

The strongest point we have seen substantiated in their favour is put forward by Mr. Long, viz:—The increased facilities they would offer for the conveyance of milk and dairy produce. Undoubtedly the opening up of the country by light railways would greatly popularize dairy farming, and be a means of placing our rural dairy farmers, living in remote country places, on a par with their more fortunately situated brother farmers near a town.

It must be remembered that farmers, unlike other town merchants, are obliged to employ a certain team of horses whether they have much road carting or not, to enable them to get their ploughing and drilling done at the proper season. Much of the heavy carting is done during the wet time at, practically speaking, a very small cost, as otherwise the horses would be standing in the stable idle, and the men losing time. Thus far we have considered this question as if some benevolent factor had laid these sub-rails and placed them at our disposal as a going concern. We must, however, remember that from Mr. Bryce's remarks State aid is to be considered as quite out of the question. Mr. Jeffries, M.P., pointed out that ratepayers would certainly protest against having their money spent by County Councils in the direction indicated. Therefore, we presume, it is the landowner who shall be called upon to bear the greater part of the expense, and for what purpose? To enable the labouring classes to go to towns to buy what goods they want, this being one of the advantages strongly advocated. If this subject had been broached some twenty years since, the landowner might have been able to bear the greater cost of the undertaking, and thereby have increased the rents of their farms; the agricultural population was larger, and consequently there would have been a greater prospect of the concern paying. But with farms unlet, cottages standing empty, increase of land to grass, tenants backward in their rents, is it likely the landlord can at the present time, or even with pecuniary difficulties under weigh, would they be justified in going to the expense of laying a railway to a district which is in a somewhat similar plight as that of a deserted city? If light railways are to be made a success under the present state of affairs, they must undoubtedly be undertaken by the present great railway companies, and worked in conjunction with the main line, and the transmission from one truck to another must be avoided. The grievance we farmers have in connection with railways, and it is a grievance which ought to be more publicly proclaimed, is that of exorbitant rates charged. Why should foreign produce be charged at a less rate than home-grown? Why should foreign goods be conveyed the length of England at the same cost as is charged to convey native produce a comparatively few miles? How can we in this country be expected to compete, other than at a loss, with the foreigner, when even our own country offers him every facility and gives him such great advantages over the home producer? We must think that if these gentlemen, forming the Committee to enquire into the question of light railways, had been requested to inquire into the difference made between foreign and native rates, they would have enlightened the public considerably, and exposed the manner by which the farmer, also the home manufacturer, is handicapped.

With the Agricultural Show pitching their tents at Saxmundham during the coming year, it is considered the Halesworth Horse Show Committee have acted wisely in following the suggestion of their President, the Earl of Stradbroke, and deciding not to hold their annual show. It is certain this Society, although only of a few years' standing, has been doing good work in the Halesworth locality, but with the County Show being held so near, and there being every likelihood of an extensive prize list, we must think they have displayed an amount of courtesy and judgment in discarding their annual show for one year.

It will have been seen that entries for volume IX. of the Suffolk Stud Book close on December the 31st. It may be well to remind breeders of the Suffolk horse that although trade has not been very encouraging during the last twelve months, there is a likelihood of matters mending, and our foreign friends again searching the country for the good old stamp of Suffolk Punch horses.

A Canadian gentleman lately purchasing a stallion for the North-West Territory was heard to remark, that in the district referred to no horse had produced, when crossed with the native mare, such useful and saleable animals as the Suffolk—clean legs being most essential for an intensely cold climate, with prolonged winters. In the United States there is a slight feeling that the heavy horse trade is on the revival, and as soon as our American cousins somewhat recover from the present depression, they will, undoubtedly, require fresh blood, and, now the Suffolk horse is fairly introduced, there is every reason to anticipate he will receive a fair share of their patronage.

THE ROYAL SHOW IN 1895.

The prize sheet for live stock, poultry, produce, implements, &c., at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society to be held at Darlington next June has now been issued. The total value of the prizes offered (exclusive of champion prizes and medals given by the Hackney Horse, Shire Horse, Shorthorn, Aberdeen Angus, Kerry and Dexter Cattle, Suffolk Sheep, National Pig Breeders' Association, and other breed Societies) is £8,035, of which £948 are contributed by the Darlington Local Committee. The special prizes offered by the Darlington Local Committee for live stock include seven classes for hunters, three for Cleveland bays, three for coach horses, four for hackneys, one for ponies, two for Shetland ponies, two for pit ponies, two for harness horses, two for agricultural horses, and one for rulley horses; one class for Aberdeen Angus cattle, one for Galloways, and two classes for dairy cows; one class for Wensleydale and one for Border Leicester ewes and lambs. The Local Committee also offer three prizes in each of five classes for Stilton, Cotherstone, Wensleydale and Swaledale, and Cleveland cheeses made in 1894, with a champion prize of £20 for the best exhibit in these classes; and they provide prizes amounting to £16 for a competition of local dairymaids and others.

THE CLASSES FOR HORSES

offered by the Society itself will include hunters, Cleveland bays, coach horses, hackneys, ponies, Shires, Clydesdales and Suffolks. The total prizes for horses (including those offered by the Local Committee) are £2,012. The cattle prizes, amounting to £1,740, will be offered for the shorthorn, Hereford, Devon, Sussex, Welsh, red polled, Aberdeen Angus, Galloway, Highland, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey, Kerry and Dexter, Kerry breeds, as well as two classes for dairy cows yielding the largest quantity of milk, and the greatest weight of butter fat. The classes for sheep, for which £1,170 prizes are given, will include Leicesters, Cotswolds, Lincolns, Oxford Downs, Shropshires, Southdowns, Hampshire Downs, Suffolks, Wensleydales, Border Leicesters, Somerset and Dorset Horned, Kentish or Romney Marsh, Cheviots, Black-faced Mountain, Lonks, Herdwicks and Welsh Mountain. Those for pigs, for which £432 are given, will include the large white, middle white, small white, Berkshire, black, and Tamworth breeds. Prizes amounting to £234 will also be given for useful descriptions of poultry, including table chickens and ducklings; £72 for fresh butter; £132 for cheeses of 1894 and 1895 make; £40 for cider and perry; £12 for jams and potted fruits made in 1894; and £30 for hives, honey, and bee appliances. The other items in the prize sheet are £60 for haymaking and clover making machines; £69 for butter-making competitions; and £32 for horse-shoeing competitions. The last day of entry is Wednesday, 1st May, 1895, but post entries at extra fees may be tendered up to Saturday, 11th May. The entries for the exhibition of implements, &c., close on April 1st. The prize sheet and regulations are now ready for delivery, and copies will be sent on application to the Secretary, at 13, Hanover Square, London, W.

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TRADE UNIONS & FEDERATIONS

ON THE DOWN GRADE.

SENSATIONAL FINANCIAL REVELATIONS.

And so it has come to pass that Mr. Havelock Wilson's National Amalgamated Sailors' and Firemen's Union has ceased to exist, to be followed no doubt by many other labour federations and trade unions which are now in their last throes, the outrageous squandering of their funds and lavish expenditure upon officials having filled the working man, who has had to pay the piper, with disgust and contempt for those who have set themselves up as "leaders" of the working classes. For my part I am surprised that the working man has so long submitted himself to be plundered, victimised and humbugged by a class of men who have evidently acted upon the principle that any fiddling was to be on their side. With regard to some of these unions, is it any wonder that thinking and intelligent working men are swearing off from them by their tens of thousands? Take for instance Mr. H. Wilson's Union and the disgusting state of affairs revealed in the following:—

SEAMEN'S AND FIREMEN'S UNION.

The figures of this Union for the last five years show salaries of officials, expenses of management, lawyers, &c., as £116,245 11s. 2d. For the five years, it works out as follows:—£23,249 2s 5d. per year, £450 per week, £74 per working day, £7 8s. per hour (allowing 10 hours a day). The benefit to members is returned at £8,283 5s. 11d. for the five years, which works out at £1,656 13s. 2d. per year, or about £33 per week. This means to the working men of this Union that for every 20s. benefit they have had to pay for the salaries of officials and other expenses about £14; thus, whilst the expenses swallowed up £23,249 per year, the members only got £1,656 13s. 2d., whilst the official and other expenses devoured £450 per week, the members only got £33 per week; whilst the expenses worked out at £74 per day, the members only got £5 10s. per day; and whilst the officials, &c., were spending £7 8s. per hour (reckoning 10 hours a day), the members were only getting about 11s. per hour. This is a pretty state of things. How long will working men submit to be fleeced by such Unions as these? It is true there is some £39,499 15s. 10d. put down as dispute pay, but this is no benefit to the working men, and, as past experience shows, is rather a curse than a blessing.—Take again

THE DOCKERS' UNION,

of which Mr. B. Tillett is the general secretary. The figures taken from the balance-sheet of the above Union, as issued by the Registrar-General for the year ending 31st December, 1893, reveal the following state of affairs:—Funeral fund, £498; strike pay, £5,358 18s. 5d.; total paid to members, £5,856 18s. 5d. Salaries of officials and other expenses, £10,495 14s. 8d., or over £200 per week, representing £33 per working day, or £3 6s. per hour (allowing ten hours per day). This means that to obtain a burial benefit of £498, the salaries of officials and other expenses swallowed up no less a sum than about £20 for every 20s. received under this heading. The general secretary (Mr. B. Tillett), organising staff, &c., received for the same period £1,379 14s. 6d., which means over £27 per week, or about £4 10s. per working day, representing 9s. per hour (counting ten hours per day) for general secretary and organising staff, &c., alone, whilst the members only received a burial benefit of £498, or less than £10 per week, about £1 13s. per day, which means something like 3s. 3d. per hour of 10 hours a day. The salaries of district officers, branch secretaries, and other officers, &c., in addition, came to no less a sum than £2,845 19s. 10d., or over £55 per week, or over £9 per day, or 18s. per hour for ten hours a-day. Nearly 10,000 members left the Union for that year.—Again, look at the following facts taken from the balance-sheets of

MR. JOSEPH ARCH'S UNION.

1st. For the year ending December 31st, 1893, it was shewn that the year was commenced with a balance in hand of £1,450 16s. 5½d., whilst the funds in hand at the end of the year was only £479 4s., less £173 13s. 6d. liabilities, which leaves a nett balance in hand of only £305 10s. 6d., or less than 5d. per member. That the salaries of the officials and other expenses swallowed up nearly £300 more than the members had subscribed. That for every 20s. distributed the labourers had to pay for expenses nearly £3, as the following will show:—The benefit to the members is put down at £683 10s 9d., whilst the officialism and other expenses are returned at £1,821 19s. 0½d., being over £36 per week, or £6 per working day. The officials have not only squandered the labourers' hard-earned pence, but Mr. J. Arch has taken to abuse them because they refuse to be fooled out of their money any longer. From 1872 to 1886 a sum of £97,985 19s. 3d. was administered, and the expenses of officials, &c., came to no less a sum than £58,953 18s. 6d., or about 60 per cent., or 8d. for expenses for every 1s. distributed; which means that about £4,000 a year, or nearly £80 a week, or over £13 per working day, representing the subscriptions of nearly 10,000 members, was swallowed up for the salaries of officials and other expenses during this period, and which did not include expenses deducted by district secretaries from monies received from the branches. Surely those who have had to find the money when they read this will ask whether such a game is worth the candle! From 1887 to 1892 the balance-sheets show that £18,658 16s. 4½d. was distributed, and that the salaries of officials and other expenses swallowed up £9,193 13s. 2½d., which means about £30 per week, and which added to the £58,953 18s. 6d., as above, brings up the total expenses of the Union to £68,147 11s. 11½d. In addition to which expenses a further sum of about 7s. 6d. out of every pound collected from the labourers is retained by the district and branch secretaries for their expenses, and which do not appear in the balance-sheets. Why not?—With regard to the

EASTERN COUNTIES AND OTHER FEDERATIONS.

Is it not a fact that whilst the contributions from members of the Eastern Counties' Labour Federation for the year 1893 amounted to only £1,038 4s. 2½d., that the salaries of officials and other expenses devoured no less a sum than £1,053 9s. 6d., or £15 5s. 3½d. more than the members had paid, representing about £21 per week, or £3 10s. per working-day, and whether the labourers, to get a benefit in strike pay of £237 6s., did not have to pay £1,053 9s. 6d., or nearly £5 expenses for every 20s. distributed.—Take the Norfolk and Norwich Amalgamated Labour Union for 1892, and we find that to give a benefit of £34 3s. 1d., the salaries of the officials and other expenses swallowed up £210 6s. 9½d., or about £6 expenses for every 20s. distributed by this same Union as shewn in your last week's issue. For 1893, to give a benefit of £69 19s. the salaries of its officials and other expenses devoured no less a sum than £236 4s. 9d., or about £3 10s. expenses for every 20s. distributed.—The Yorkshire Miners' Union distributed to their members £7,654, whilst the salaries of officials and other expenses swallowed up £11,623, or about £1 10s. 4d. expenses for every 20s. distributed.—The National Amalgamated Union of Labour (Mr. Dipper's Union). For 1893 the balance-sheet shews that the salaries of the officials and other expenses devoured £6,443 4s. 2½d, representing nearly £130 per week, or £21 per working day, and this to give a benefit to members of £3,669 13s. 1d.; there was also about £3,700 paid for strikes.—General Railway Workers' Union, Mr. Ike Ward organising secretary. This Union's balance sheet for 1893 shews a benefit given to members of £634 9s. 1d., whilst the salaries of the officials and other expenses took no less a sum than £2,225 6s. 9½d., or £430 15s. more than the contributions for that year, representing £44 per week, or over £7 per day.—From a report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, issued a short time since, it appears that 599 Trade Unions had made returns, shewing a membership of 1,237,367, with an income of £1,790,842, whilst their expenditure is set down at £1,765,386, leaving only £25,456 over expenditure for the benefit of their members. It is estimated that we have 13,900,000 workers, yet the leaders of the trades unions, with their only 1,237,367 members, are seeking to make the country believe that they represent the working classes; at the same time it is proved that only 11 out of every 100 working men are members of any trades union, 89 out of every 100 standing aloof from these organizations, many of which are run for one object only, viz., to fleece and plunder the working man of his hard-earned pence. I submit that the time has fully come when the authorities should put the iron hand of the law down upon many of the unions of the present day, and for the protection of the working classes crush them out of existence and place in future all trade unions under Government supervision, with stringent rules and regulations as to their future conduct and procedure, so as to prevent the working man from being plundered and robbed in the future by loafing officials as they have been in the past.

A. L. EDWARDS.

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease."

FRIENDLY SOCIETY NOTES.

[Specially Contributed.]

Next Week's Lodge and Court Meetings.

MANCHESTER UNITY OF ODDFELLOWS.

"Briton's Pride," Ipswich, Thursday, January 3rd.
"Gurdon," Grundisburgh, Saturday, January 5th.
"Golden Reapers," Ipswich, Tuesday, January 1st.
"Excelsior," Ipswich, Tuesday, January 1st.
"Pretyman," Felixstowe, Tuesday, January 1st.
"Past Grands," Ipswich, Friday, January 4th.

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.

Court 2332, Tuesday, January 1st.
Court 2678, Wednesday, January 2nd.
Court 2695, To-day (Saturday), December 29th.
Court 6004, Tuesday, January 1st.

Foresters have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the work connected with the High Court meeting at Cambridge in August last was carried out. The financial statement presented at a meeting of the Demonstration Committee last week showed a credit balance of £275 11s. 5d. This enabled the Committee to recognise in a pecuniary form the services rendered by the Secretaries and Treasurer, and to pay £25 to the District Management Fund. Then came the pleasant task of distributing the balance. £175 was voted to the Friendly Societies' Institution, £25 to the Victoria Asylum, and £5 each to the District Nurses' Institution and Addenbrooke's Hospital. What remains after making these payments will be devoted to suitable presentations to Mr. T. M. Francis, Mr. E. H. Parker (ex-Mayor) and the Vice-Chancellor, each of whom contributed so largely to the success of the gathering.

With the view of fully maintaining their standard of membership the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society recently passed and registered a rule whereby candidates must be possessed of the additional qualification of being in receipt of a minimum weekly wage or income of 24s. A further rule has been registered requiring candidates to produce certificates of birth on application for membership. This is a precautionary measure against want of sufficient care being exercised on the part of any candidate in ascertaining his correct age at the time of entrance—a very important matter, as the maximum age limit for membership (thirty years) is expressly fixed by the rule and is absolute. January 1st is the date when the rules come into operation. These provisions are wise to a certain extent, but we fear that they must also have a prejudicial effect upon the Society.

Half-yearly and district meetings will soon be upon us, and those brethren who love "to keep a bit in hand" as well as to have the biggest say at the business meetings would do well to clear up arrears of contributions, and so avoid fines.

Though deserved praise is often bestowed upon the great friendly societies for the relief which they afford members both in respect to sickness and death, little credit, says a country correspondent, is ever bestowed upon the thousands of little "cock-and-hen" clubs, as many of the small sick benefit societies are termed, which are held in public-houses in both town and country. During the past few days the annual sharing has taken place, and in some cases of the 26s. which the members have paid in as much as a sovereign has been returned.

Our attention has been drawn to an epistle directed to the editor of an Ipswich contemporary, over the *nom de guerre* of "an Honorary Member," in reference to the dispute which has arisen between the medical men of Cork and the friendly society brethren of that city. We have been asked to reply to this self-styled honorary member, and we should be failing in our duty as representatives of the great friendly orders were we to decline the request, as the vituperative letter which appeared in our contemporary is most uncalled for, and a disgraceful libel on the character of a worthy branch of our social system.

It is useless to argue against such epithets as "foul, loathsome, friendly disease," but when the writer says the club system is developing once honourable, self-respecting men into "poor, low, cunning members of the human race," we are bound to take issue, well knowing that the reverse is the fact. Is it degrading to combine to help a fellow man in times of sickness, and when death enters the household? Is it "low" and cunning to help the widow and the fatherless; to raise money for hospitals and nursing institutions; and to make provision for old age superannuation? If so, the term requires a new definition.

True, these societies were raised for the betterment of the labouring classes, and when they were formed "no wage scale was mentioned." But the latter, as circumstances have proved, was a wise omission. Here again, however, "Honorary Member" shows his lack of friendly society knowledge or he would never have made such an egregious error as to use the term "parish relief." Parish relief is one of those monsters with which friendly society brethren desire no connection. They object to it in principle, and seek to substitute thrift and self-dependence—with which they hope to inspire *all* classes whether they be agricultural labourers or the too frequently met with professional man who squanders his larger earnings.

"Honorary Member" says the omission of a wage limit for membership has had the result of introducing into lodges men of means with from £150 to over £1,000 a year, who pose as most disinterested beings. Admitting that this is so, does it make the cause any worse, and who ultimately benefit thereby? Our friend says these "moneyed" men join the Orders for the sake of cheap medicine and medical attendance, and "to make a nice amount weekly during sickness out of all the clubs with which they are connected." Let us admit that also; but let us bear in mind, at the same time, that the recipient is only receiving in return that for which he has already provided. Friendly society brethren are opposed to "charitable" dispensation, and when a benefit member joins an Order they are prepared to give him the full benefit of membership should the unfortunate occasion arise. But here comes the futility of the writer's argument. He has forgotten to state what proportion of the "moneyed" members, as he calls them, never make any demand whatever upon their Lodge in sickness, and thus give their poorer brethren the benefit of their contributions; how many were very poor members before they were successful in life and became "moneyed" members? Let him also tell the public what would be the result were the various Lodges and Courts left entirely to the management of those "wage limited" brethren he desires to see—men who, as a rule, are not the backbone of society, but whose contributions are kept good by the example of the "moneyed" men who were once as poor as themselves.

For "Honorary Member's" edification we can assure him that the keeping of friendly society accounts and the government of the great Orders is not such a sinecure as he pre-supposes, and were it not for the "leaven" of the Order (probably he will say professional and moneyed men), the funds would not be administered with that remarkable care, honesty and justice which on the whole has characterised the friendly society movement. "The coming election cry of old age pensions" may be left to take care of itself for the present; sufficient to say that the friendly societies are making praiseworthy efforts to solve the problem. But we must say another word about "Honorary Member's" precious wage limit, which he would fix at not exceeding £3 for towns and £1 for the country. The very figures, especially the latter, condemn the principle. Because a man happens to earn £3 per week (no matter how heavy his personal expenses or how large his family), he is debarred joining a friendly society which ensures provision in sickness, old age, and death. An agricultural labourer, farm bailiff, or estate agent, should he happen to earn 21s. per week or upwards, is likewise debarred. If this is not attempting to compel men to seek parish relief, &c., it would be difficult to know what is; and to preach such rubbish to enlightened men at the end of the 19th century is simply a reflection on one's intelligence.

Even the medical fraternity form a butt for "Honorary Member," who asserts that falsity and scoundrelism is their present safeguard! This also is opposed to the truth. Frequently have we not only seen but heard evidence of the painstaking care exercised by medical men before recommending for membership; and if "Honorary Member's" logic were sound, he would have seen that it was against the medical practitioner's interest to "pass" persons whose general health was not good. In conclusion, this correspondent appeals to labouring men to come out of their lodges and form new ones (presumably a sort of friendly federation under his management), and he urges philanthropists to withhold their honorary subscriptions. We sincerely trust neither class will accept such unwholesome advice, inasmuch as the friendly societies of this country, which have been the means of inculcating thrift, greatly reducing pauperism, and making provision for old age, need no further recommendation to the British public. "Honorary Member" (if he is an honorary member, which we doubt) might have spared his labour, paper and ink; for his attempt to generally bully everybody and give a gratuitous advertisement to a Scottish insurance society has signally failed.

On Monday evening, after the summoned meeting of the "Fidelity" Lodge, Saxmundham, Bro. W. Jordan called attention to what was described as "a very extraordinary letter" appearing in our Ipswich daily contemporary, signed an "Honorary Member." At the request of the Lodge the letter was read, and was then most severely criticised, many of the statements being condemned as inaccurate. Ultimately a resolution was unanimously passed that the letter was not worthy of any further notice.

The half-yearly meeting of the Maldon District M.U.I.O.O.F. was held at Colchester on Boxing Day. There were delegates present from each Lodge in the District, and the Grand Master (Bro. Dines) presided, the Deputy-Grand Master (Bro. Marlar, jun.), of Halstead, and the District Secretary (Mr. K. Digby) also being present. Bro. Marlar, jun., was chosen Grand Master, and Bro. H. Clamp Deputy-Grand Master from four candidates. The proposal to alter the district rules, so that lodges for females may be opened, was spoken of, and on the motion of the Deputy-Grand Master, seconded by Bro. Marlar, sen., the meeting unanimously expressed itself in favour of such an alteration.

At the fortnightly meeting of the "Orford White" Lodge, M.U., held at the Red Lion Inn, Bramford Road, on Monday evening, Messrs. Felix T. Cobbold, E. R. Turner, and E. Beard were unanimously elected honorary members of the Lodge.

At the annual meeting of the Woodbridge Branch, No. 547, of the Rational Sick and Burial Association, held at the King's Head, Mr. Thomas Banyard was re-elected Chairman for the ninth time by a unanimous vote. The Branch was found to have again had a successful year. After paying for sickness, medicine and management, it appears there was a balance on the right side of £81, which had been paid to the General Fund. After exclusions by arrears and transfers to other branches, there remained about 100 members. The Society now numbers about 9,000 members in Suffolk, and the total number is about 100,000 members in England, Scotland and Wales. Not a branch exists in Ireland.

The *Medical Annual* advises practitioners to remember that when recommending Cocoa as a food and beverage for invalids, the name Cadbury on any packet of Cocoa is a guarantee of purity.

WOMAN'S WAYS AND WORK.

[Specially Contributed.]

The Queen passed Christmas Day at Osborne. Her Majesty's Christmas doles, known as the "Minor Bounty" and the "Royal Gate Alms," were distributed upon Saturday and Monday last to over one thousand aged and disabled and meritorious persons throughout the dioceses of England and Wales.

For the thirty-second time the Prince of Wales spent Christmas at Sandringham. His three daughters, the Duke and Duchess of York and the Duke of Fife were also there. Upon Christmas Eve the Prince and the Princesses personally superintended the distribution of meat and coals to every cottager upon the Sandringham Estate. The Princess of Wales is still in Russia.

Once more Christmas time with its lights and shades has come and passed. As a well-known poetess remarks "Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death," and strange it is how often this saying is verified at the season of Christmas. A terrible railway accident at this time has become almost an annual occurrence and brings sorrow and desolation to many a home, in startling contrast to the happy reunions in those homes which the angel of death and sadness has for a time passed by.

Lady Hallé was travelling with Sir C. Hallé by the ill-fated express but, fortunately, both she and her husband escaped without incurring any injury.

The older we grow the larger is the amount of sadness that mingles with our Christmas pleasure. "There is no fireside, howsoe'er defended, but has one vacant chair." Happy for us is it when the younger generation demand our attention, and many outside calls are made upon our time and thoughts, for then, in giving pleasure to others, we kindle afresh the flame of Christmas joy, which, if centred in self, would flicker but feebly.

In two short weeks Eaton Hall has been the scene of a wedding, a birth, and a death. Lady Henry Grosvenor, the wife of the Duke of Westminster's eldest son, was present at the wedding on the 12th of Lady Margaret Grosvenor. Last Saturday, the 22nd, she was taken seriously ill, a little son was born on Sunday, and on Monday evening—Christmas Eve—the mother passed away.

Madame de Navarro (Miss Mary Anderson) has almost recovered from her recent severe illness; much sympathy is felt for her in the loss of her baby.

The *Lady* tells us that the Queen of Madagascar is a very fashionable lady. She patronises Duchet, Worth, and Redfern, and devotes the upper storey of her Palace to the disposal of her wardrobe; here she has hundreds of dresses, trunks full of gloves, and rows of boots and shoes. Queen Ranavalo only leaves her Palace upon moonlight nights when she goes in an ordinary sedan chair to visit her numerous relatives.

In "Sketches of Life and Character in Hungary" Miss Margaret Fletcher tells us that though the Magyar husband and father is a master, he is an extremely tender-hearted and courteous one, and very seldom abuses his power. The peasant will allow his wife to put on his boots or stand while he eats, but he will address her in such terms as "My little pigeon" or "Star of my heaven," and his sense of chivalry will not permit her to do rough outdoor work.

A new kind of *menu* stand shown in the London shops just now consists of a china doll, about six inches high, dressed in crinkled tissue paper, and having the *menu* pinned on to her in front.

Lovely things are to be seen at the depôt for Irish Cottage Industries in Mount Street. A linen tea-cloth is delicately drawn and edged with lace. Lovely pink pillows have covers of fine white cambric threaded with pink ribbons and beautifully frilled, the cambric being drawn into transparent lacey patterns through which the pink shows. For men there are handkerchief boxes in dull cloth, with embroidered on them in bright silks a riding whip and horseshoe.

The fur boa is not nearly so much worn this year; perhaps the warmth of the weather is partly answerable for its absence, but another reason is probably the becomingness and novelty of the large chiffon ruffs that take its place. In black they are especially suitable for fair people. They must be very full or the chiffon droops away from the neck; they fasten at the back with a large black satin bow, and often have a bunch of violets tucked in on one side in front. Violets real and artificial pervade London, and quantities of tea roses are sold about the streets, giving a curious unreal look of summer to the dull fog-laden city.

The following lines embody an old legend regarding weather prognistications, to be taken upon New Year's Eve:—

If New Year's Eve night wind blow *south*,
It betokeneth warmth and growth;
If *west*, much milk and fish in the sea;
If *north*, much cold and storms there will be;
If *east*, the trees will bear much fruit.

We stand once more upon the threshold of another year; the "old year lies a-dying," and there is "a new face at the door." Looking back upon 1894 in respect to womankind we see in it the birth year of two feminine monstrosities, the "New Woman" and the "Revolted Daughter." Looking forward into 1895 we devoutly hope the coming year may see their decease. In many ways the feminine influence of 1894 has not been altogether satisfactory. In drama the woman with a past has reigned supreme; may she in future be *of* the past. In literature we have been inundated with books written by women upon subjects best left alone. We do not deny that the intention has been good of some of the writers. But, after all, yellow asters, superfluous women, and creatures of circumstance pander more to the taste of the depraved than they appeal to the respect of the purer-minded.

Anent the above-mentioned type of literature, the following taken from "Judy" is worth repeating:—Scene, the smoking-room of a club. One smoker: "The great beauty about the modern woman's novel is that there are no dry parts to skip." The other smoker: "No, it's all mud."

In 1894 a more pronounced attack has been made by some women against what we consider the rational dress worn by the majority of the sex, and an attempt made to introduce for women all irrational copy of man's attire.

In fact, we are ourselves heartily sick of the new woman, her freaks and fancies, and are glad with the new year to shake ourselves free from her, and pass into a fresh atmosphere. In the words of the late poet laureate, may the bells that ring in the new year, socially, morally, and last, but not least, politically, "Ring out the false, ring in the true."

May 1895 be a year of blessings to all who are kind enough to read the effusions of

CLELIA.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS
In Decorated Tins for
NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS
Of Leading Family Grocers Everywhere.

LIFE ON BOARD H.M.S. BRITANNIA.

[Specially Contributed.]

Fast moored stem and stern at the mouth of the Dart, that lovely river which goes by the name of the "Rhine of England," lies H.M.S. Britannia, with her attendant satellite, the Hindostan, the two together forming the training-school and home of England's future naval commanders and admirals. We started from Torquay one bright day to pay a visit to the ship, having more than one powerful and loving interest on board, and by the kindness of one of the officers, who had invited us to come at a time when visitors are not, as a rule, admitted, we were permitted to have a peep at the more intimate life of those on board. Our former visits had been on the regulation Wednesday afternoon, when the boys were all ashore, and a corporal took us formally over the empty ship and explained all the arrangements to us. This was all very well, and we learnt a great deal from those visits, but it was much nicer to go when all the boys were on board, even though we could not see our own particular young friends for more than a short time, as it was not a half-holiday, and could not take them out in the town as we had done before; this the cadets consider a great treat, as they are never allowed to go into Dartmouth by themselves.

We arrived at 3.30, after passing along a most beautiful bit of coast scenery, skirting Tor Bay, past Paignton, that pretty little watering-place with its old red sandstone rocks and brilliant red sands, and Churston, the junction for Brixham, famous of old for the landing of William of Orange, and now for its fine fishing fleet, the bright red and orange sails of the trawlers adding so much to the picturesqueness of Tor Bay, and causing great delight to artists in the sketching season. Then the lovely Dart came in sight, and soon we got near the harbour, and saw the Britannia and Hindostan at their moorings, with their steam-tender, the Wave, and other smaller vessels moored near, and numberless craft coming and going—boatloads of cadets going on board, as the short afternoon of play on shore was drawing to a close, and some were already beginning to prepare for their evening work. A steam-pinnace met us at Kingswear Station, so we did not, as usual, follow the fortunes of the train, the inmates of which, animate and inanimate, are shifted on board a big steam ferry and taken across to Dartmouth on the opposite side of the harbour.

We, in our special fast steamboat, proceeded up the river and speedily reached the ship, where we were received on board by our friends, who were waiting on the covered gangway which led up to the middle deck.

The present Britannia is the fifth of her name, and the second that has been utilized as a training-ship for naval cadets. What we may call the Britannia system began in 1857. The cadets, after passing a far easier examination than at present, were sent to the Illustrious, a jury-rigged training-ship for young seamen at Portsmouth, and the course of instruction they went through only extended over a period of nine months at first, but was afterwards increased to 15 months, and in 1869 to two years' training, which is the present arrangement—the two years being divided into four terms, the period from the middle of January to the middle of July counting as one term, although it is broken by a vacation at Easter.

The Illustrious was only used for two years for this purpose, as it was soon found necessary to devote a ship entirely to the cadets, and in 1859 the Britannia, a three-decker, which had carried the Admiral's flag in the Black Sea during the first part of the Russian War, was appropriated as a training-ship for them. Three years afterwards, in 1862, the ship was moved to Portland, Portsmouth being found an unsuitable locality for the boys. But Portland did not suit either; sometimes in bad weather all communication with the shore became interrupted, and the boys were unable to land for days together, and consequently became unhealthy for want of proper exercise.

Before the ship had been there a year, Dartmouth was decided on as the best place possible, combining as it does all the advantages of the country with its intimate connection with the yachting and sea-faring world, and facilities for safe boating. Here in the beautiful land-locked harbour, moored in deep water close to the shore, landing would always be possible, and is made obligatory, the boys being obliged to land for a certain time every day, unless prevented by illness or any other cause.

And so on the 29th September, 1863, the old Britannia was brought round from Portland, some of the cadets being away on leave at the time, but the rest enjoying the voyage in the old ship very much. By sunset she was off Dartmouth, and anchored there for the night, and next morning, by help of two dockyard tugs, she was taken past the two old castles which once guarded the harbour, and safely moored a little way up the river. This was an occasion of great rejoicing, bells were rung, bands played "Rule Britannia," and spectators lined the banks. Such an arrival was very welcome, for the advent of the Britannia with her 500 souls on board meant a considerable increase in the importance of the little town, and would give an impetus to her trade. It was soon found necessary to enlarge the accommodation, and in the following year, 1864, the Hindostan arrived, and was moored in her present situation ahead of the Britannia, a bridge being thrown across the space between the two ships.

But the old Britannia soon began to show signs of age; she had been launched nearly 50 years, and the time had come to replace her. Finally, in 1869, a fine old three-decker, launched in 1860, and named the Prince of Wales, one of the last of those imposing steam line-of-battle ships, then fast becoming obsolete, was selected for the training-ship, and carefully fitted up with the experience of many years to guide those in charge of the work. The engine and boilers were removed, the poop was raised, extended, and roofed in, and many useful alterations made. Of her three masts, only one was allowed to remain; her name was altered to Britannia, that name being thought so appropriate for the training-ship for the officers of that navy which we hope will long continue to "rule the waves"; the figure-head of the old Britannia was transferred with the name, and this, and four quaint figures which used to support the stern gallery, and which are now preserved in the grounds on shore, are all that is left of her; and thoroughly comfortable and well fitted out is the new Britannia, which has, however, just completed her 25th year in her present capacity, and therefore must no more be called new.

And now that we have done with the history of the Britannia we must proceed to examine her interior, and first we go down to the lower deck and go aft to the mess-room, where the whole number of the cadets, now 265, can sit down comfortably at the different tables, arranged in their order of port and starboard watches. Some fine old prints adorn the walls, and we were shown the challenge cup rowed for at the annual regatta by representatives of the two watches; this cup takes up its abode on the port and starboard side of the vessel, according to the result of the race, and seems to be looked upon with great awe and ceremony. The mess-room is used as a sitting-room between meals, and boys were seated about, occupying themselves at their lockers with books and papers, and in various ways; there is a good school-library on board. The messing-room of the ship's company is separated by a bulkhead. On the way out of the mess-room we noticed a number of small tables on castors, on which we were told that the joints were wheeled in and carved. In the pantry adjoining the provisions for tea were set out ready; 84 pots of jam and large tins of delicious Devonshire clotted cream bore witness to the fact of the boys being well treated and well fed, had not their healthy looks and contented, bright faces testified already to that fact. Immediately under the boys' mess-room is a large seamanship-room, one of the most interesting parts of the ship, containing as it does large and beautiful models of ships and parts of ships of all kinds; here the boys learn knotting and splicing, and everything connected with sails and sailing, while the more modern arts of steam and naval warfare are taught in the steam-studies and special lecture-rooms which we were shown in other parts of the ship. When we visited the seamanship-room preparations for a class at "stropping the block" had just been made. On the floor lay several little heaps, each containing a block and its unspliced ropes, &c., which had to be fitted and nicely spliced together in correct nautical style.

Here, everything seemed to be well and thoroughly taught, and when we passed through half an hour later we saw the boys hard at work having a practical lesson in seamanship from one of the ship's company. We then went up to the sleeping deck for the third and fourth term (or second year) cadets, that for the smaller boys, first and second termers (or first year) being on the Hindostan. Each boy's hammock is slung over his sea chest, and taken down every morning, lashed, and stowed in a convenient corner. The sea chest is an object of great interest, and our special young friends raised the lids of their own with great pride to show us how beautifully ship-shape and well fitted up they were, with places for sextant, dirk, and other objects of envy which are acquired later and by degrees. The lids themselves inside were made ornamental with photographs and pictures, bringing a little bit of home with them. The chests are all alike, white with black covers, and the owner's name on a brass plate on the top. A splendid large bath opens out of the sleeping deck; here the cadets take a plunge every morning, the water being warmed to a proper temperature in winter. From the sleeping deck we go up to the studies, and are shown the steam study, with its endless appliances for teaching, models of engines and boilers, and sections of and different parts of engines and boilers, besides drawings and plans of all parts of a modern man-of-war. And in an adjoining study there are beautifully executed models of modern vessels of all kinds, from a first-class battle ship to a torpedo catcher. The elder boys have free access to this study at all times, so have every opportunity of studying the class of vessel that they will go to sea in, and here also are kept all sorts of technical books to help them with their studies. There is also a nice lecture-room, with seats rising at the back, and all sorts of appliances, chemicals, etc., for carrying out instruction in physics and natural philosophy.

In the lobby outside we noticed photographs of each term and the term cadet captains, taken just before they leave the ship, with names printed underneath. This has been done for the last ten years, and we found several friends among them, and thought this lobby very interesting. Portraits of the two Princes were here, and also on the poop, and in other parts of the ship. There was a splendid engraving of the Victory, framed in a bit of her timber, and separate photographs of the fortunate boys (five or six each term) who pass out as midshipmen, the others serving as sea-going cadets for some months before becoming "middies." There are, happily, very few actual failures to pass out, although these happen occasionally, and the unlucky boy has to relinquish all idea of an adventurous sea-going life, and settle down to a more monotonous existence. The sick bay opens out of this lobby; happily there were only two or three occupants, and they did not seem very bad, but quite up to mischief, laughing merrily at the sly way in which our party peeped in upon them. From this lobby we went up to the poop, which is roofed in, and forms a splendid large room, invaluable as a playground in wet weather, and where the boys muster on all grand occasions and on Sundays. A beautiful model of a sailing frigate with all her sails set stands at the after end. The ship's band plays here almost every day, and dancing is indulged in by the cadets. The poop is also used for theatricals, prize givings, and other functions.

The whole establishment is lighted by electricity, and thoroughly warmed by hot air, and the atmosphere seemed very pleasant and cosy. Extreme neatness and order prevails throughout the ship, and everything seems in its proper place. We went along the bridge which connects the two ships, and found the arrangements on board the Hindostan for sleeping accommodation for the first and second termers very much the same as those on the Britannia. She is only a two-decker, and the upper deck is fitted up for a church, where service is held every Sunday, and a Confirmation once a year. There are also studies and class-rooms for the younger boys. We returned to the Britannia, and had a cup of tea in our friend's cabin. He had been 20 years on board, and had much of interest to tell us. Then three warning bugles sounded, and at the sound of the third we went up to the middle-deck to see the boys "fall in," and march off to afternoon work at 4.30. This was a pleasant sight, the cadet captains helping the officers to marshal the boys, and march them off to their studies. These cadet captains are very useful and ornamental with their gold lace on their arms. They are carefully choosen from the third and fourth termers for their good conduct and influence for good over the younger boys. They are intended to enforce discipline, and see that the rules of the ship are carried out. They form a sort of medium of communication between the cadets and the officers, and prevent the younger boys being bullied or imposed upon, besides several other duties. There are two chief captains. The cadet increases in importance according to his term, the first termers, or "news," being of little account; then in the second term he becomes a little more assertive and important, but it is not till the third term that he is allowed to wear his cap at the back of his head, and nonchalantly swing his keys; while the fourth termers are of course the most important of all, and out of those the two chief cadet captains are chosen.

One thing evidently taught on board the Britannia is quickness in dressing. Some of the boys rushed aboard, as the warning bugle was sounding, in their football trousers and dirty boots, but all appeared in excellent time at the muster, spick and span in their smart blue uniforms with gold buttons, white lanyard and all complete. The boys hang up their lanyards with keys on them in alphabetical order on the middle deck before going ashore, and assume them again when on board.

We did not go ashore this afternoon, but on a former visit went up to see the playgrounds. The landing-stage is crowded with boats, constantly coming and going, and there are good boat houses, gymnasiums, fives courts, etc., close to the bank. You then go up, up, up, by steps and winding steep paths, passing the Captain's garden and other grounds belonging to the ship, till you come to the cricket and football field, a fine level ground on a plateau, with splendid views over the Dart and its lovely valley and surrounding hills. Besides cricket and football there are country walks to be taken on holidays, and a pack of beagles are kept, which afford pleasant runs, in which ladies and gentlemen from the neighbourhood and the farmers all join on horseback and on foot. Fencing, boxing, and all kinds of manly exercises are well taught, and an assault-at-arms held twice a year. In the summer there is constant boating, but the boys are not allowed to use the boats unless they can swim, and of course swimming is one of the first things taught. When we were crossing the bridge between the ships we noticed an oblong sort of box floating beneath us. This is the swimming bath, with a flexible hose for warming it, so that it can be used summer or winter. Besides the large steam yacht, the Wave, they have two schooners and six cutters in constant use on half-holidays, and on the whole holidays go for pleasant excursions to Plymouth or Torquay in the biggest of these; besides which they have innumerable small boats, and boating is, without doubt, first favourite amongst the amusements on board the Britannia.

To return to our latest visit. After seeing the boys all marched off to their respective studies, and having another chat with our friend in his cabin, the steam pinnace waited on us again, and with great regret we left H.M.S. Britannia with her bright lights and warm, snug atmosphere, and steamed through the dark night to Kingswear station. As our train slowly left the lights of the harbour and busy Dartmouth behind, and passed close to the training ship, with her brilliant lights reflecting in the calm water, our hearts grew tender at the thought of the hundreds of young lives on board, and we heartily wished that brightness and calm might preponderate over gloom and tempest in their future lives, even though a sailor has to be prepared for all sorts of weather. At any rate they will often look back with pleasure and affection to the happy time they spent on board H.M.S. Britannia.

A.F.

Teach children to be careful of their teeth and to prevent decay, with its consequent trouble and expense, by using Calvert's Carbolic Tooth Powder, the best preservative. Largest sale of any dentifrice.—In 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d., and 1lb. 5s. tins by Chemists, &c., or 1s. tin, post free for value, F. C. CALVERT and Co., Manchester.

HOW HAWKS TRAIN THEIR YOUNG.

The young of falcons and hawks are well trained by their parents: from the time they are strong enough to pull at and break up the quarries brought to them, it is one long course of instruction. The old birds know perfectly well what the young ones will have to do, and they get them fit for doing it as soon as they can. They compel them to take longer flights day after day, and teach them how to stoop—that is, strike at their quarry. One or the other will shoot up with a portion of feather, or it may be fur, followed by the young hopefuls. Then the morsel is dropped from the clutch—down they dash for it, and the one that makes the quickest stoop secures the prize before it reaches the ground. When the old birds think the young can fend for themselves, off they go. This is not a case of choice but necessity, for they are simply cuffed and buffeted off. So well is this known in the country, that it is a common thing to hear a lad say, "Them 'ere hawks has druv their young uns off."—From "Nature's Training School," by "A Son of the Marshes," in "Blackwood's Magazine" for January, 1895.

DISTRESS AMONG IPSWICH DOCKERS.

BAD TRADE AND ITS CAUSE: ALARMING DECREASE OF EXPORTS.

Trade at the Ipswich Dock has been far from brisk for some time past, but the continued depression is having most serious effects upon the dock labourers; and at the present time, a *Journal* representative was assured last week, over 200 dockers are out of employment. This statement does not refer to that class of men who would not work were a job offered them, but to *bona fide* dock labourers, who are in such straitened circumstances that the most trifling job, however small or ill-paid, is eagerly sought for. "Indeed," added our informant, "it is pathetic to see the number of men who apply to me for work daily; even a twopenny job is as much sought after as though it were a permanent situation." This matter was referred to by Mr. A. L. Edwards at a smoking concert held at the Rose Hotel, on Wednesday week under the auspices of the Ipswich Mutual Working Men's Independent Federation, when much sympathy was expressed for the men out of employ. Mr. Edwards said he regretted to find that Ipswich, like other towns, was affected by bad trade. Mr. Keir-Hardie the other day stated that he estimated there were over a million working men in this country unable to get a regular job. It was a very sad state of things, and there must be a reason for it as well as a remedy. He had just got hold of the Board of Trade returns for the past eleven months of the present year, from which he found that our export trade alone had fallen £31,272,422. That accounted for so many working men being out of employ, because out of every pound of exports in this country, 8s. was paid in wages. Therefore, during the past 11 months over 31,000,000 eight shillings had been taken from the pockets of the working men, which, under a Unionist Government, went into their pockets. That was not a political but a social question which they must look in the face, because it was the working man who had to suffer. Under the last Unionist Government our

EXPORT AND IMPORT TRADE INCREASED

by 126 millions sterling—(applause)—and that showed that under a Unionist Government trade was prosperous, there was more work, more wages, more comforts for the homes of working men, more money for the tradesman, and the country generally flourished under a wise, firm and judicious Administration, such as we had under Lord Salisbury. (Applause.) He had also found that under the Radical Government 14 million tons less cargo had entered the docks of the country than during Lord Salisbury's tenure of office, which meant that 39,000 working men had been deprived of employment. Therefore, when they were told about the great body of unemployed they had not far to seek the cause. The reason lay in the vacillating policy of the present Government, which had driven trade out of the country and thus caused working men to be walking about in search of a job. When Keir Hardie moved in the House of Commons that something should be done to relieve the great body of unemployed, the present Government refused to take up the subject or to do anything to help the unemployed. The latter were left to help themselves. Whether they and their Federation were "mongrels" or not it was for them as independent working men to consider whether it was not to their interest to give the "go-by" to a party of that description, and to support those only under whom the trade and commerce of our country had been prosperous. (Applause.) During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs. Burrows, Murray, Knott, S. Abbott, Olo, Bristo, G. Gowen, Copsland, Manning, A. Osborn, and Alcock; Mr. Wright was heartily applauded for his violin solos. Mr. Sullings recited, and Mr. Cook displayed considerable ability as an accompanist, concertina soloist and reciter. Mr. Jas. Tubby, (chairman of the Ipswich branch of the Federation) occupied the vice-chair.

WHERSTEAD BRANCH.

A most successful annual meeting of the Wherstead Branch of the Ipswich Working Men's Mutual Independent Federation was held on Thursday night week at the Ostrich Inn, when there was a very large attendance of members. The accounts were presented and the surplus funds, which were large, from the fact that there had been only two sick grants required during the year, were divided, each fully paid-up member receiving 3s. 6d. out of the 4s. paid, besides placing a good sum to the reserve. Mr. A. L. Edwards, president of the Federation, gave an address, after which the branch officers for the ensuing year were elected:—Chairman, Mr. Snelling; secretary, Mr. Ambrose; treasurer, Mr. Bullard. General satisfaction was expressed by the members at the way in which the branch had been managed, and a number of new names were handed in for admission to membership. The branch has now about 70 members.

FAKENHAM BRANCH.

On Thursday a most successful annual meeting of the above branch was held. The funds were divided at the rate of 3s. per member, leaving a good balance in hand. Mr. J. Smith was re-elected chairman, Mr. Robert Roberts secretary, and Mr. E. Rush, treasurer, with the best thanks of the members for their past services; the year closed with 99 members. Mr. A. L. Edwards, the president, was present, and gave a stirring address, which was well received.

What! these spoiled hands are caused by Washing Day I am surprised, get MATCHLESS CLEANSER SOAP at once, I pray.

HOLIDAY REVELS AT IPSWICH.

At the Ipswich Police Court, on Monday, Albert Westaway, a painter, of Middlesex, for being drunk in St. Matthew's Street, on Friday, was fined 2s. 6d.; or three days' hard labour.—Emma Prentice, of 2, New Street, was fined 10s., including costs, or seven days, for being drunk and disorderly in Fore Street, on Friday.—Henry Wilson, a hawker, of Southend, who was in the company of the previous witness, was also fined 10s. for a similar offence.—James Brett, a labourer, of St. Helen's, for using obscene language on the Cornhill, was fined 6s., and costs 15s. 6d.—William Webster, a cab driver, Elm Street, pleaded guilty to being drunk and refusing to quit the Criterion Inn. He was very sorry and hoped it would not occur again. He was still more sorry when he learned that, on account of a previous conviction, he must pay 20s. and 14s. costs. Mr. H. E. Archer, auctioneer, of Ipswich, was thanked by the Bench for the assistance he had rendered in the case.—Susan Goodrich, of 16, Handford Cut, a domestic servant, for being drunk and disorderly in Museum Street, on Saturday night, was fined 10s., or seven days' hard labour.—John Goodrich, jun., a hawker, of 16, Handford Cut, a brother of the previous defendant, was charged with inciting his sister to resist the police. The disturbance occurred about midnight. Defendant came up to Police-constable Charles Catchpole and a gunner in the Royal Artillery who was helping him and told the girl not to let herself be taken. The consequence was the girl became very troublesome and had to be almost carried. The defence was that the brother resented the action of the soldier, who was behind the girl, and that he was, in fact, told by the constable to pull the other soldier away. It was obvious, however, that his object was to get the girl away, and he was fined £1.—The Gunner Williamson was commended, and the Chief Constable was advised to give him a reward of half-a-crown.—John Grant, a sailor lad of St. Clement's Church Lane, was fined 10s. for being drunk and disorderly in St. Matthew's Street, on Sunday night.

BOSMERE UNION AFFAIRS.

WORKHOUSE OFFICIALS DISAGREE.

The Bosmere and Claydon Guardians held their final meeting on Friday under the presidency of Mr. F. T. W. Burch (Winston). A lengthy letter sent by the nurse of the Workhouse to the Local Government Board, in which she made accusations against the Master and Matron, had been forwarded to the Guardians. The nurse was only recently appointed, and the Guardians, after investigating the accusations, found them without foundation, and, also finding she had neglected her duty, invited her to resign.—Mr. Harwood moved that the Board acknowledge the receipt of the letter, and intimate to the Local Government Board that the accusations were groundless.—Carried.—A report in the Master's book from the Rev. W. J. Chapman and Mr. Gowing, who had visited the House during the week, referred to complaints made by the patients in the infirmary as to the neglect of the nurse, and at the same time expressed their warmest approval of the kindness shown to these patients by the Matron.—Dr. Cooper made allusion to that part of the nurse's letter where she stated that the Master allowed the body of a dead man to remain in the ward for 14 hours, and went on to say that the patients, who had their meals in the ward, complained of the smell. He was desirous of knowing whether the Master was justified in allowing the corpse to remain there.—Mr. E. E. Gowing informed Dr. Cooper that the master (Mr. Cheesman) was perfectly justified in allowing the corpse to remain, as the deceased died suddenly, and he left the body in the ward until the arrival of the doctor.—The Master remarked that he screened the body from view, and placed disinfectants round the bed.—Of the six applicants for the office of nurse, with a salary of £25, three were invited to attend the Board meeting. Miss Annie German, of London, was appointed.—Mr. Harwood, in tendering a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services during the year, remarked that Mr. Burch was deserving of their warmest thanks for the efficient manner in which he had conducted the business. Reminding the Guardians that that was the last meeting of the Board, he ventured to hope that Mr. Burch would be elected Chairman of the District Council.—Mr. E. Roe seconded, and said he felt they were deeply grateful to the Chairman for his genial manner, and the happy way he had presided over them. (Applause.)—The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Burch, in returning thanks, said he had held the chairmanship of the Board for six years, and during that time had endeavoured as far as possible to satisfy both the ratepayers and the poor. He testified to the great assistance he had received from the two vice-chairmen, Mr. S. T. Harwood and Mr. George Fiske. Referring to the hint thrown out by one or two members as to appointing him Chairman of the District Council, Mr. Burch remarked that if they wished him to be chairman on that body he would try to carry out the duties during a short term.—Mr. Corder seconded the motion of thanks to the Vice-Chairmen, which was adopted.—Mr. Harwood briefly acknowledged the compliment, and expressed his warm approval of the services of the Clerk.—A motion of thanks to the Clerk was seconded by Mr. Smith and adopted.—Mr. Smith, in returning the thanks of the Board to Dr. Cooper, whose assistance he said would be greatly missed, testified to that gentleman's services as a Guardian, and expressed his sorrow that he was the only person on the Board who would not serve on the District Council.

LITERARY NOTICES.

A short time ago Mr. Stevenson gave an account of how he wrote "Treasure Island," and related that when this work first appeared in a story paper "it figured in the ignoble midst without woodcuts and attracted not the least attention." It may be interesting to recall the fact that no sooner was it issued by Messrs. Cassell and Company as a volume than it sprang into popularity at a bound, and has had a circulation larger than any other of his works. Messrs. Cassell and Company recently arranged to re-issue "Treasure Island" in their boys' paper, "Chums," with new illustrations expressly executed. In this periodical it has attracted much attention and been received with enthusiasm.

Commencing with the first number of the New Year, the proprietors of "The Paris Mode" will give their subscribers the benefit of a free insurance applicable to accidents of all kinds. It is worthy of note that the system of free patterns cut to measurement with "The Paris Mode" inaugurated a few weeks ago has already been more largely used in this country than in France, and the publishers have received many letters speaking of the value which these patterns have proved.

"The Quiver" for January contains the first of a series of special articles giving the actual experiences of a lady journalist, Miss T. Sparrow, "as one of the penniless poor." This month's contribution deals with Palm-workers, among whom Miss Sparrow lived and worked to secure the necessary information. The article is fully illustrated, as is a special interview with the Countess of Meath, upon the subject of the Ministering Children's League, which she founded, and in which she takes a keen personal interest. Among other contributors of this number are the Bishop of Winchester, Professor W. G. Blaikie, the organist of the Chapel Royal, the Rev. P. B. Power, M.A., and L. T. Meade.

RING, BELLS, RING!

Ring, bells, ring, ring out with joy,
And all the old year's cares destroy;
Ring, bells, ring, ring in with joy,
A New Year's peace without alloy.

Ring the bells softly, boys; ring them with care,
Ring the bells slowly, boys; ring them out fair;
A friend is leaving, so wish him adieu,
In English fashion, right manly and true.

Ring the bells boldly, boys; pull them out strong,
Ring the bells nobly, boys; pull them out long;
Ring out all envy and malice and strife,
Ring in contentment, let good-will be rife.

Ring the bells joyously; pull them out clear:
Ring the bells piously; pull without fear.
Hoping our old piece of mind we shall see,
In the new coming year, grow strong and free.

Ring the bells merrily; ring them with glee:
Ring the bells cheerily; ring them out free.
A new friend is coming, and soon we'll see,
What fun and frolic he'll bring thee and me.

With hearty good wish and jolly good cheer,
That's how we'll welcome our friend the New Year;
Ring out all trouble, dissension, and wrong,
Ring in a far higher life, good and strong.

Peasenhall. W.

ODE ON THE DEATH OF ALEXANDER III.

There's a weeping and a wailing from the far-off Northern shore,
For an Emperor of the Russias shall see his own no more.
And free from all conspiracies that can gather round a throne,
And from all the dragon's teeth that around a king are sown;
Away from Nihilist and bomb, from the dagger sure and free,
The Emperor of the Russias has cross'd th' eternal sea.
A life of trouble, sorrow, pain, is every despot's share,
And who but knows in every man that death disguised is there!
That every parcel opened, a score may send to doom,
And blow to all eternity a Prince's palace room?
May not a bouquet carry death, a rose once smelt, the grave:
And from the poison in a rose what power on earth can save?
Oh! weep, ye English nation for a sovereign and a throne,
And shed your tears, ye maidens, for a father like your own.
And English youths here sitting your consolation send
For a father of the fatherless, and a hopeless widow's friend.
And 'cross the foaming waters, where once the English died,
And where the Russian Alma with Briton's blood was dyed.
Let England's consolation to Russia's Empress go,
And the gulls of England's coast line weep for Russia's Eagle's woe.

N. H. T.

MARKETS.

Bury Corn, Monday.—Very small attendance. Wheat was quotably unaltered, but there was very little business. Barley trade inactive.

Bury Cattle, Monday.—Only a few pigs on offer, which soon found purchasers at prices nominally about the same as last week.

Stowmarket Corn, Thursday.—Quite a holiday market, with but little grain of any sort offering to test prices. Wheat nominally unaltered.

High-class Mazawattee Coffee.
High-class Mazawattee Coffee.
High-class Mazawattee Coffee.
High-class Mazawattee Coffee.
High-class Mazawattee Coffee.
At 1/4, 1/6, 1/8, and 2/- per lb. Of Leading Grocers.

IPSWICH POST OFFICE.

ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT.

HOW THE WORK IS DONE.

[BY THE "JOURNAL" COMMISSIONER.]

The people who sigh for the good old times, and talk romantically about the clanging horn and stage-coaches, can usually be quieted by a single question. Ask them if they can do without the Post Office as it exists to-day. Enquire whether their forefathers had any conveniences equal to being able to send a letter 200 miles in a dozen hours, through half a dozen hands for a penny; talking with a friend by telephone nearly as far off for eighteen-pence, wiring a money order for some purchase at the other end of the "tight little island," receiving the same by post for the modest sum of threepence, and generally using the world as an oyster through the medium of a single office. The public hardly realise that these things are modern innovations. Still less do they know how the manifold work has grown and been developed to its present high state of efficiency. An inside view of the Post Office is always interesting. Most of all is it so at Christmas time. It is then fraught with so many messages of peace and good-will that one almost forgets its more objectionable uses—the odious half-penny wrapper with the quarterly account, the begging epistle, or the offer to lend money on "easy" terms. From these things our parents were spared by what might fairly be called a prohibitive duty. But on the whole they undoubtedly lost. In order to give an adequate idea of what the present generation has gained, and generally to inform it of the wonderful advance made in one department of Government administration, the *Journal* Commissioner on Thursday called at the Ipswich Post Office, and, having been cordially received by Mr. J. Clarendon Hyde, the respected postmaster, that gentleman very kindly referred the interviewer to Mr. J. W. B. King, who, from his long and responsible connection with the Ipswich post office, can speak on the subject with peculiar knowledge. Mr. King's connection with the work goes back to 1860, when Mr. Thos. Garnett was the Postmaster, and the business was transacted in premises which now form the tailoring establishment of Messrs. E. T. Read and son. Mr. Garnett had in the previous year succeeded Mr. Wm. Fitch, who will be remembered as an enthusiastic antiquarian.

SIX CLERKS AND ONE STAMPER

comprised the in-door staff, and the letter carriers numbered nine in all. Mr. Garnett died in 1866 and was followed in February, 1867, by Mr. John Prior, whose name will ever be cherished with affectionate regard by those who served under him. He missed only one month of completing twenty-five years' management, passing away rather unexpectedly in January 1892. Under Mr. Prior's *régime* the office slowly but surely expanded. In 1870 the Government took over the control of the telegraph, which was managed for many years by Mr. J. C. Stubbs in Queen Street, and afterwards in Princes Street. The telegraph office at that date mustered only about four clerks; from this period down to 1883 progress was gradual. The staff in charge of the sorting tender running between Ipswich and London was transferred from the London office to that at Ipswich. During the decade of 1870 the inconvenience of the old Post Office became so serious that complaints were frequently made as to the inefficiency of the public accommodation, as well as of the obvious difficulties under which the staff had to work. The atmosphere was so vitiated that to anyone entering from the open air it seemed almost nauseous. On one occasion, at about eight o'clock in the morning, the late Lord Kinnaird entered, and was so disgusted with the smell that at his own expense he brought down Dr. Ansell, the celebrated analytical chemist, directing him to test the atmosphere in the office at various times during the day and night. As a result a letter was sent to the Mayor of Ipswich, and another to the Postmaster-General, and a copy of the same

LAID BEFORE THE HOUSE OF LORDS,

with the effect that certain structural alterations were recommended and made. The relief thus afforded was, however, only temporary. The commercial prosperity of the town completely outstripped the conveniences of the Post Office. The Town Council opened up negociations with the proprietors of the King's Head Hotel and with other parties with a view to acquiring a large central and suitable site. Probably these negociations, which were protracted, caused the Postal Authorities to hang back for a while in their enterprise. The present handsome edifice, however, was completed in 1881, and was opened on July 27th, the new Lock Gates and the new Museum being also on the same day formally opened by the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. A telegraphic message of congratulation was sent to the Postmaster-General (Mr. Fawcett). The first letter was also posted to the right hon. gentleman by his Worship the Mayor (Alderman Wrinch). With the removal there was an immediate increase of six officers to the in-door staff, and the staff of lower grade porters was strengthened. This memorable event occurred during the Mayoralty of Mr. Alderman Wrinch, and that gentleman very kindly entertained the whole of the staff in the new building the night before the opening. Asked who was the first customer and by whom he was served, Mr. King said the honour fell to the then Deputy-Mayor, who bought a shillingsworth of stamps, and he had the pleasure of handing them over the counter. Next came the reduction in the minimum charge for telegrams from one shilling to sixpence, which made an enormous difference in the receipt and despatch of messages, as may be gathered from the fact that the staff of four or five telegraph clerks has grown to 23, with 30 messengers. At the time of commencing business in this fine block of premises it contained ample accommodation for all departments, and no one thought that within a few years the place would be inadequate for the requirements of the town. Another great branch of business had not, however, then been contemplated. Two years later—in August, 1883—the parcels post was inaugurated, and Ipswich was made the one "depôt" between Norwich and London, or, in other words, a clearance house for various small places in the surrounding district. The advantage of this plan—that instead of sending to each little town direct, which would mean the establishment of an immense number of receptacles—the goods are received at Ipswich and despatched to the various towns on the same principle of distribution on which the letter work is carried out. The trial of this scheme, of course, involved the engagement of a large supernumerary staff, and its success entailed their permanent employment.

WHILE MR. FAWCETT WAS POSTMASTER-GENERAL

the men throughout the country raised an agitation for more pay, with the result that the whole of the postal and telegraphic adult staff in the Kingdom were—excepting persons at very small offices—put on an equal footing—a minimum salary of 16s. a-week with an annual increment. This scale has been continued up to the present day, but it seems not at all improbable—with the tendency of the times—the men will, like Oliver Twist, want some more. When the Parcel Post was opened, one man was employed with one horse and cart to deliver packages, but the traffic grew apace, and four parcel handcarts are now sent out in charge of special men, the smaller parcels being delivered by the letter carriers on their usual rounds. The plan has been found to answer admirably, as the parcels weighing under a lb. do not incommode the carriers, and thus get the quickest possible delivery. After the department had occupied the present building about four years the upper part was found insufficient; it was therefore decided to take in the offices then let to Mr. Spencer Dixon. The party wall was taken down and one of the offices was made into a letter carriers' room, and the other into an office for the chief clerk, whose office had up till then been in a glass case in the sorting office on the ground floor. Even with this extension there was not proper accommodation in the way of retiring-rooms. There was only one common kitchen for clerks and men alike to turn into for a few minutes' recreation, or to partake of any refreshment as they occasionally need according to the exigencies of their work night and day. When the present Postmaster accepted the control of the Office he at once recognised the need for further improvements. The result was that the two rooms occupied by Messrs. Eade and Johns, architects, at the top end of the building, were merged in the mass. The Chief Clerk's room was made a retiring-room, and the corner-room made into a chief clerk's room. Up to that time the Postmaster's room had been on a level with the main office. The Postmaster now moved to the large room in front previously occupied by Mr. Markin (the superintendent of the engineering department), who took one of the rooms lately occupied by Messrs. Eade and Johns. So much for the shell in which the work is transacted. The next chain of questions was in regard to the work itself, and here Mr. King was equally explicit. Everyone is under special duty to do his own particular task. No matter where it is posted

A LETTER CAN BE TRACED THROUGH EVERY HAND,

it passes from the time it leaves the sender until it reaches the addressee. The duties are made as far as practicable alternate, the offices known as forwarding offices being open all the week with the exception of Sunday, and on Sundays the public are admitted at ten o'clock and at five o'clock to several conveniences. How enormously the work of the Post Office has increased during the time that some of the present officials have been there may be gathered from a comparison of its uses. In 1860 the departments were limited to the sale of stamps (and none were issued above the price of a shilling), the supply of money orders, and the registration of letters. In 1862 Mr. Gladstone introduced his savings bank scheme, which threw immense amount of work on the staff. Since then, the issue of postal orders has been introduced; they have been circulated in their millions, and more or less superseded the old-fashioned money orders. At the period already referred to, it was considered that an officer might in six months be trained to be a fully qualified clerk; now, if a young man after two years' close application becomes fairly proficient, he will be regarded as pretty smart. It would not require a very great stretch of the imagination to suppose that his range of knowledge might be tested some day in the following manner:—A customer might come into the office and purchase a variety of postage stamps, enquire what it would cost to send a telegram to some remote part of the world — say San Francisco, then demand a form for a patent, next seek some bill stamps, then demand what stamps be should have to put on a residuary account, hand in a parcel which he wished to go to some other remote place, and finally introduce an elderly relative, a retired tradesman, who desired to know how much money he would have to plank down to secure an annuity of

£1 A WEEK FOR HIMSELF AND WIFE,

or the survivor of them. The career of a letter through a big office like that at Ipswich was very simply explained. The letter when posted falls into a large basket, which is frequently emptied on to the stamping table. The letters are first "faced," *i.e.*, all the addresses are put one way, and then stamped, a letter in the stamp indicating the time at which this is done. The missives are then taken to the sorting table, and will be sorted on an average at the rate of 50 a minute. The letters are then sorted into various groups—those for the provinces under various towns, while those for London and through London are placed together in two lots and afterwards re-sorted according to the various districts of London and the lines of railway. Not only is this done, but letters are assorted for stations on these lines; for instance, letters posted from the North of England for the Eastern Counties line would be sorted into three parts—(a) for places between London and Chelmsford, (b) for places between Chelmsford and Ipswich, and (c) for places below Ipswich. Turning to the operations of the parcels post, Mr. King remarked on the persistent opinion of many of the public that officials are discourteous in declining to place stamps on parcels. The fact, of course, is that they are prohibited by the regulations from doing so. Every parcel is expected to be weighed by the counter-clerk before it is accepted, so that if any parcel be afterwards found not to be properly stamped the clerk receiving it is called upon for an explanation. The parcels coming in during the earlier part of the day are at once distributed like letters, but the bulk, which arrive later, are sent down to the depôt. They are carefully packed in large baskets; and a tray is placed over them, so that under no circumstances can the parcels move about. Occasionally complaints are made that bottles are broken, but such accidents have almost invariably proved to be due to concussion rather than to careless packing. Into each basket is put a bill, which has on it the number of foreign parcels, the number of registered parcels, and any other information. In the case of large towns, it frequently happens that several baskets are despatched at the same time—occasionally as many as ten—and in order that it may be known that the proper number get there, they are labelled in order, and the last bears the word "final." When the parcels post was introduced in 1883 a large proportion of the packages came undone, and some of them—as for instance, the small coffin, which revealed its identity—were unsuitable for transmission. The public, however, have learned by experience the immense advantage of this service, and the more they value it the more careful are they to use it and not abuse it. The consequence is that very little trouble is now experienced either from carelessness or practical jokes. Having mentioned that during the past two months the letter carriers had received a course of ambulance instruction under Dr. A. T. Wood, and that they would shortly sit for examination, Mr. King mentioned an interesting fact in connection with coach borne parcels. When the Act of Parliament was passed, he observed, the department experienced great difficulty in arranging with the various railway companys who, though they could not get a whole loaf, were glad to accept nearly half, the result being that somewhere about 55 per cent. of all moneys paid on parcels is received by the railway companies, the service having to find all the labour for sorting and materials in the shape of baskets. This arrangement was for 21 years, 12 of which have already elapsed. The heads of the department, a year or two ago, after due consideration for the more economical working of the parcels post, inaugurated a system of coaches to the principal towns throughout the country, the result of which is that many parcels do not touch the rail at all, but are sent in the old-fashioned style by one or two-horse coaches, travelling as emergency arises. The coach between Ipswich and London is worked by a two-horse van from London to Colchester, and the journey from Colchester to Ipswich by a one-horse van contracted by Mr. F. W. Canham, of Roslyn Stables, who also horses most of the mails for the Ipswich vans. The portentous increase in the traffic of letters and parcels may be gathered from

TWO OR THREE STATISTICS

too brief to be wearying. During a typical recent week—before the Christmas pressure—the number of letters, &c., posted through the Ipswich office was 118,178, and the number of parcels 2,900. This would make a total of 6,145,256 letters, and a total of 150,800 parcels. In the same week the number of letters delivered in Ipswich was 121,381, and the number of parcels delivered was 2,863. This would represent a total of 6,311,812 letters and 148,876 parcels delivered in the course of a year. The grand total of letters received and delivered in the year would thus come out at 12,457,068, and the grand total of parcels 299,676, excluding the extra Christmas traffic. The number of letters delivered in the year 1881 was 4,000,000. Any account of the Post Office would not be complete without a glance into the telegraphic department. The great increase in the work may be judged by a comparison of the figures for 1871, 1881, and 1893. In 1871 the number of messages forwarded was 16,264, the number transmitted to other offices was 16,036, and the number received and delivered 59,253. In 1881 the numbers were, messages sent away 22,570, transmitted to other offices 42,597, and received and delivered in Ipswich 75,436, making a total of 140,603. In the year 1893 the numbers were, messages forwarded from Ipswich 51,508, transmitted 157,771, received 132,059, making a total of 341,338. The staff employed numbers 20 clerks and 23 messengers. The instruments number 23, and the stations communicated with 25. There are two automatic receivers, one of which can run off messages at the rate of 400 words a minute. The quadruple machine, which is the latest addition to the Ipswich appliances, enables four messages to or from London to be taken along a single wire. Besides the wires in use by the Ipswich office, several special wires run through the office, among them one from Liverpool to Emsden (Germany), another from Liverpool to Hamburgh, and a third from Berlin to London. Within the last few months there has been established direct telephonic communication between Ipswich and Colchester, Chelmsford and London, and through communication between Ipswich and Brighton is obtained by switching. One word should be added as to the Christmas pressure. The increase in the parcels traffic began to show itself as early as the 18th inst., and kept gradually increasing until Christmas morning. The staff was increased and put on extra duty gradually until the Christmas Eve, when all hands were on duty. Letters, although they showed an increase during the latter part of last week, were not so prominent as parcels until Christmas Eve, when they beat the record. No fewer than 30 men were engaged during the latter part of Monday evening in sorting and working off letters, and it must be very gratifying to the management that, notwithstanding the great pressure, not a single mail was lost.

THE FUTURE STATUS OF JAPAN.

It is impossible to doubt that, whatever be the fashion in which the war may finish, its foremost and most permanent effect will be to raise Japan to a very different standing from that she has occupied hitherto in the world. She has supplied such unexpected proofs of her capacity that opinion about her is rising high. Everybody recognises that, suddenly, a new force has come into existence in the East. The campaign on sea and on land has shown that Japan possesses a practical adaptability, a faculty of applying teaching, a spirit of order, of elaboration, of organisation, which put her entirely apart in Asia, and lift her to a level with Europe. In the present day the value of nations is counted mainly by their fitness for fighting, and it cannot be denied that from that point of view Japan has shown herself to possess much value. Either as an enemy or as an ally she is now well worth the consideration of other nations. But it happens that her progress has not been towards the power of war alone: it has stretched out simultaneously in almost every other direction. Here are half a dozen facts as examples of what she has been doing. Her population has augmented from 33 millions in 1872, to 41 millions in 1892. Her foreign trade, the tonnage of her merchant shipping, and movement of vessels in her ports, have all doubled in the last ten years. Manufactures of varied natures have been established and are prospering actively—some of them, indeed, brilliantly. The national wealth is increasing rapidly, one proof whereof is that the whole of the war loans issued hitherto have been subscribed inside the land. And—more important and more striking than all the rest—education is compulsory, and the schools of Japan are almost as numerous as those of Great Britain, while the level of teaching in them is quite as high. There are 26,000 primary schools in Japan, and, according to the last Statistical Abstract, there are 31,000 inspected schools in the United Kingdom and Ireland.—From "The Position of Japan," by an ex-Diplomatist, in "Blackwood's Magazine" for December 1894.

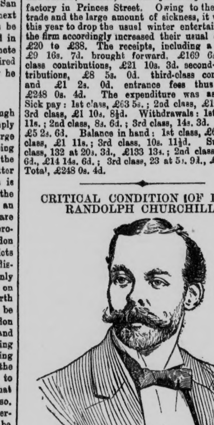
A LINER DISABLED.

The Anchor Line steamer Anchoria, which arrived in the Clyde yesterday, reports signalling the Dominion Line steamer Sarnia, from Halifax to Liverpool, in need of assistance, in latitude 55 N. and longitude 12 W. The Sarnia had rudder gone. Hawsers were attached to the disabled steamer, and the Anchoria steered her for two days, but the ropes then parted, and, in consequence of the boisterous state of the weather, the Anchoria had to leave her about 130 miles outside T ry Island.

AN IPSWICH SICK BENEFIT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Sick Benefit Society promoted by the *employés* of Messrs. Johnson, Clarke, and Parker, Limited, was held yesterday evening at the factory in Princes Street. Owing to the dullness in trade and the large amount of sickness, it was decided this year to drop the usual winter entertainment, and the firm accordingly increased their usual donation of £20 to £38. The receipts, including a balance of £9 16s. 7d. brought forward, £169 6s. 6d. first-class contributions, £21 10s. 3d. second-class contributions, £8 5s. 0d. third-class contributions, and £1 2s. 0d. entrance fees thus came to £248 0s. 4d. The expenditure was as under:—Sick pay: 1st class, £63 5s.; 2nd class, £10 14s. 8d.; 3rd class, £1 10s. 8½d. Withdrawals: 1st class, £2 11s.; 2nd class, 8s. 6d.; 3rd class, 14s. 3d. Expenses, £5 2s. 6d. Balance in hand: 1st class, £6 12s.; 2nd class, £1 11s.; 3rd class, 10s. 11½d. Surplus: 1st class, 132 at 20s. 3d., £133 13s.; 2nd class, 31 at 9s. 6d., £14 14s. 6d.; 3rd class, 23 at 5s. 9d., £6 12s. 3d. Total, £248 0s. 4d.

CRITICAL CONDITION OF LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.



The rally, with increase of strength, maintained for about thirteen hours, does not in any sense unfortunately, modify the general gravity of the patient's condition, nor does it affect the pronouncement of medical men that there is absolutely no hope of recovery. Up to within a very short time of the issue of the last bulletin there were many enquirers at the town residence of his lordship, and it was announced that they included many of the working class. One working man said he was a Paddington elector, and had "just walked over to see how his lordship was."

THE KENSINGTON MURDER.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

At West London Police Court, yesterday, Reginald Saunderson was charged on remand with the murder of Augusta Dawes, at Holland Park Road, Kensington, on November 25th. The prisoner's father was again present. The prisoner appeared less haggard than last week; he shuffled into Court, and buried his face in the collar of his ulster. Dr. Bond, of Westminster Hospital, who assisted at the *post-mortem* examination on Dawes, said he was of opinion that deceased was on the ground when the fatal wound was made. All the large blood vessels of the throat were cut through by one sweep of the knife, and the marks on the neck were caused by the pressure of the fingers. There was a great quantity of blood of recent date on the knife. Colour-Sergeant Bryan, of Limehall Barracks, Ireland, said on the 27th November prisoner called at the Barracks and wanted to enlist under the name of Drake. Prisoner said he had come from Eton College; he afterwards gave the name of Saunderson. The

PRISONER SLEPT IN BARRACKS THAT NIGHT.

He was examined next morning by a doctor in the usual way, and was rejected. The witness came to the conclusion that the prisoner was a gentleman of weak intellect. When he called at the barracks he was shaking very much, and was very cold. William Miller, District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary, of Killeshantra, County Cavan, said he arrested prisoner on December 3rd at the house of a lady named Jones, fourteen miles from Killeshantra. Witness formally cautioned the prisoner, who made no reply. He found on the prisoner two London evening papers of November 26th, both containing reports of the murder, also a Prayer-book with the note, "I hated the 119th Psalm when young, but liked it afterwards." The case was adjourned.

SLEEP.

A man who works hard must have plenty of rest, and as a rule, his sleep should be unbroken and undisturbed. The actual number of hours' sleep taken and necessary for persons in health varies within wide limits according to age, the soundness of sleep itself, and individual peculiarity. Most of us work during the day and sleep at night; but some people, from the nature of their occupations, are compelled to work at night and sleep during the day. Even to the rule that sleep should be continuous and uninterrupted there are exceptions. Worry means broken rest at night, or unrefreshing sleep and then the strain must be relaxed, or the health will give way. Infants often sleep twenty hours out of the twenty-four, and children, as a rule, require very much more sleep than adults. In persons from fifteen to twenty-five, eight hours' sleep are necessary, but people in the prime of life do very well with seven hours' rest, or even less. Some people of energetic temperament get along very well with five hours' sleep out of the twenty-four; but this is exceptional. Under certain conditions, the amount of sleep taken may be excessive. In idiots and persons who are more or less demented, the greater part of the day may be passed in sleep. These people, when their simple wants are satisfied, dream away their time, and are oblivious of all that goes on around them. After a prolonged mental effort many notable people have been known to pass from twenty-four to thirty-six hours in bed; and shop girls and others who are hard-worked during the week not infrequently sleep the greater part of Sunday, not leaving their room until late in the evening, when they take a stroll, have supper, and then again retire to rest. There is a curious disease which occurs as an epidemic, and to which the term "sleeping sickness" has been applied. The somnolence may last from six to twelve months, and it is often so intense that it is with difficulty the patient is aroused to take nourishment. The exact nature of the complaint has not been worked out, but it commonly terminates fatally.—From "The Family Physician" for December.

EYE: SOCIAL EVENING.—A merry party, by permission of the mayor, Ald. Henry Gedny, assembled within the walls of the Municipal buildings, at Eye, last night (Friday) to enjoy their annual "social evening," which, owing to successes of a similar kind in past years, has become one of the events of the year in the borough. Dancing was the chief attraction of the evening, for which the floor of the Corn Hall had been well prepared, and by nine o'clock the devotees of Terpsichore were in full swing and remained so until an early hour this morning. Supper was admirably served by Mr. James Wright, confectioner, Eye. The party of about 80 included some good singers, who occasionally varied the proceedings by favouring the company with some capital songs. The ballroom had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and excellent music was supplied by a band led by Mr. A. Gooderham. The committee consisting of Messrs. T. Skuffham, H. Skuffham, G. Culyer, H. Woolsey and H. Burrows, are to be heartily congratulated upon the unqualified success of the gathering.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Supplied by C. E. TEMPEST, 14, Arcade Street, Ipswich.

Ipswich 3% Corporation Stock ...	...	102	103xd.
Ipswich Dock Debentures 3½% Blacks ...		100½	101½
Ditto	3½% Reds	100	101
Ditto	3½% 1877 issue	100	101
Ipswich Gas A ...	Stock ...	254	258
Ditto B ...	Stock ...	194	198
Ditto C ...	Stock ...	185	190
British Gas	...	48	49
Colchester Gas A	...	41	42
Ditto B	...	31	32
Bury St. Edmund's Gas (1849) ...	...	23	24
Ditto (1859) ...	...	19	20
Ditto (1879) ...	...	16	17
Yarmouth Gas, £30 shares ...	...	52	53
Ditto £30 shares ...	...	46½	47½
Ditto £7½	...	13	14
Woodbridge Gas	...	18	19
Alliance Assurance	...	9½	10¼
Colchester Brewery Ordinary ...	...	¾	1¼
Ditto 7% Preference ...	...	3½	4¼
Daniell & Sons' Breweries Ordinary	...	4	5
Ditto 7% Preference ...	...	9½	10½
Ditto 5% Debentures...	...	98	100
William Fraser & Co., Debentures...	...	99	101

28th December, 1894.

C. E. TEMPEST,
STOCK AND SHARE BROKER,
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Investment list on application.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected COCOA, Mr. Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette*.—Made simply with boiling water or milk—Sold only in packets, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Cocoaine or Cocoa Nib-Extract: A thin beverage of full flavour, now with many beneficially taking the place of tea. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

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THE BLACK SHAFT;

OR,

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

BY

HENRY FRITH.

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "On the Wings of the Wind," "The Lock-keeper's Secret," &c. &c.

CHAPTER II.

AT CROSS PURPOSES.—SIMON'S RESOLVE.

KATE ASKENHURST watched the angry and jealous lover till he disappeared in the direction of the "Rookery," and then turned back to meet her friend and her cousin. Mervyn and Jessie had sauntered along the cliffs together. She was quite happy in his presence, for she had permitted herself to love his cousin while he had at first paid her considerable attentions. When two young people are constantly together in all the social freedom of brother or sister without being such near relatives, they are apt to fall in love. This was the case with Jessie and Mervyn Duncomb. Many love passages had passed between them, and in all probability the cousins would have been married had not a new light illumined Mervyn's heart.

This brilliant star came in the person of Kate Askenhurst, and when Jessie invited her charming school friend to stay at the "Wolds" she signed the death warrant of her cousin's affection. Almost as soon as they met, Mervyn and Katie became fast friends, and poor little, good-natured Jessie found herself frequently "one too many" in the walks and rambles around the "Wolds." What else could she expect? she told herself. She was slight, not tall; dark, and, if fiery at times, generally retiring in manner; shy in the company of strangers; affectionate and gushing to her trusted friends, quite unlike the proud, lively beauty, Kate Askenhurst.

Mervyn Duncomb was about the average young man—well made, well dressed in plain garments; fair, good-looking, rather impulsive, with considerable obstinacy; passionate in his affections, but inclined to be fickle in his attachments. Sensitive to a degree, but with sufficient sense to see the discriminate when the shafts of ridicule or insincerity were aimed directly at him or not. Generous and unsuspecting, he was an easy prey to any designing man or frivolous woman who wished to "sport" with him.

The reader will thus perceive that we have no heroes and heroines to deal with; none of the transcendental characters of sensational or romantic fiction will come into our story. We are endeavouring to pourtray every-day characters as we have met them, inconsistent they may appear; but who of us is not inconsistent? The men and women of this tale have lived amid surroundings not very far removed from those in the narrative, and their lives, though not perfect, have been strange; and the career of one at least equals the most sensational of fictions. As we have found them, so shall our characters be.

Jessie perceived with some heart-burning the defection of her admirer, and she bravely made up her mind to conquer the affection which she had permitted to nourish itself in her breast. But though she endeavoured, and generally successfully, to hide her feelings, Mervyn's neglect or his evident *brotherly* kindness, and no more, piqued the girl, and made her bitter at times. She was too noble-minded to stamp her friend and rival as a "flirt," but she thought she perceived that Katie was only amusing herself while undermining Mervyn's heart, and gaining possession of his affections.

"What on earth Kate can see in your brother Simon *I* cannot understand," said Mervyn, after a pause. "Why has she run off with him now?"

"I am sure I cannot tell," replied Jessie, carelessly. "But why should she *not* like him? There is nothing repulsive in his appearance or manner; he is my brother, Mervyn, and, of course, her friend."

"Well, I don't care, of course; why should I? but it looks as if she were flirting with him, and she can't intend to marry him."

"Why not, pray? Flirting, indeed! I must say, Mervyn, you men are the most inconsistent creatures in the world. So long as a girl will flirt with one of you men, she is perfection in your eyes; but if she be kind to any other man you abuse her at once as a flirt—a 'dangerous flirt,' perhaps."

"I never called *you* a flirt, anyhow, Jessie. You are at any rate consistent. Now, Katie——"

"Oh, please, don't let us discuss her any more. Have you no other subject of conversation when with one young lady than the perfections or imperfections of another?"

"All right, Jessie; then I will never mention her name again, nor speak to her, as you forbid it; and I'll tell her why——"

"Mervyn Duncomb, you are the very biggest donkey that ever lived on two legs!"

This was a strong remark to make, and Jessie felt it so; but human nature has its limits, and her patience had been sorely tried.

Mervyn was silent. He felt he was a "donkey," and he looked characteristically foolish. Jessie could hardly help laughing at him, vexed as she was; her pride was hurt. She loved her cousin, and here was he utterly indifferent to aught but Katie. The young people continued silent until Mervyn perceived Kate Askenhurst advancing towards them across the down.

"There she is," he said, "and alone. I wonder how she managed to get rid of 'Simple Simon?'"

"I wish you would not speak of my brother like that, Mervyn. If you dislike him it is no reason you should insult him."

"It seems to me, Jessie, that you want to have a row with me. Go on, then. The sooner I am out of this the better, evidently. I will speak to my uncle this evening, and go abroad for a while. Then I hope you and Simon and Kate Askenhurst will be happy together."

Jessie made no answer to this burst of petulance, and soon after Katie met them.

"Well, young people, have you enjoyed your *tête-à-tête?* You look bored, rather, I must say. Jessie, my dear——"

"Where is Simon?" interrupted her friend.

"Gone away home, I suppose. He had enough of me, I fancy. Your cavalier was more polite, and remained with you. Well, is it not time to return?"

Jessie assented. Mervyn made no answer. Katie perceived something was wrong, and chatted unceasingly in the endeavour to put her companions at their ease again. But vainly. Mervyn was cross. Jessie ill at ease. Katie herself, inwardly conscious of having been the cause, but how she could not determine. However, she knew she could soon bring Mervyn round if Jessie were away, and so she chatted on, forcing the others to answer till the "Wolds" had been regained.

"What is the matter, Mervyn?" she whispered. "Are you cross with *me?* What have *I* done?"

"I'm not cross at all," replied the young man.

"Then you look so," she replied; "I am glad I have not offended you, Mervyn for, I want to tell you something."

"What is it?" asked Mervyn, looking at her for the first time for an hour.

"Something *very* particular. As we are great friends I must tell *you first*. I have had an offer of marriage! What do you think of that?"

"An offer—of marriage! From Simon, I suppose! Did you take him? He is such a good young man, you know! Of course you accepted him?"

"Of *course!*" she repeated ironically. "Of course, as you say. He is such a good young man!"

Mervyn was in no mood to distinguish her fine irony with reference to his rival. He looked her steadily in the face, and then said:

"Well, of all the flirts I ever heard of you are the biggest. Thank God, I have learnt this in time. Good-bye, Miss Askenhurst. I hope you and Saint Simon will be happy. I intend to leave here to-morrow, so I am afraid I shall not be at the wedding."

"How dare you speak to me like that?" she exclaimed, flashing an angry glance at him. "Flirt, indeed! Well, at any rate, I flirt with my social equals. You prefer the lower classes. How is Bessie Calton? Faugh!"

This was a rude and unladylike rejoinder, and also an untrue insinuation.

"Bessie Calton! Really, Miss Askenhurst, your imagination and anger carry you away. Bessie is a good girl in her station, but ——"

"Oh, of course, *we know you only go to see her father*, and if you meet her you only do so by accident! Flirt! Those who live in glass houses, Mr. Duncomb, need not throw stones. You are welcome to your miner's daughter. Poor thing; I pity her!"

The young lady was extremely angry, and in the consciousness of having flirted, she assumed more than she felt. As no man or woman will ever confess to deliberate flirting, so no one likes to be accused of it, and a woman especially will wax very indignant when reproached for her cruel conduct by her latest victim. This was Kate's case. She was a practised coquette, and had a knack of making every man she met—if he were worth the trial—believe she liked him very much. She had had some twinges of conscience, but very few, as her victims did not generally complain. But here was one who did. Here was a man who told her the truth, and she was angry; very indignant, and forgot herself in her anger. It must be confessed that Miss Askenhurst was not thoroughbred.

"Miss Askenhurst, you are quite in error. If your precious Simon told you this, he said what was not true."

"I prefer to believe 'my precious Simon.' He at any rate has better taste—in my opinion. A miner's daughter, indeed, though she is pretty I'm told! I congratulate you, Mr. Duncomb, on your conquest."

She swept him a mocking curtsey, and quitted the room haughtily. Katie knew that it was "war to the knife" with the heir. But Simon was not a bad catch, and if the worst came to the worst she could manage him. Moreover, Katie perceived that she could not trifle with Simon. She had refused him, but she knew she had permitted him slight favours, and that he was just the man to decline to be refused. Her scheme to lead Mervyn to propose to her had failed. She was disappointed at her want of success, and showed her anger.

The party at the "Wolds" was by no means a merry one that evening. Kate would not speak to Mervyn, except the merest common places. Mervyn was angry with Simon, and showed it. Jessie was annoyed at her cousin's departure, feeling she loved him dearly; while old Mr. Duncomb sat silent, wondering what was the matter.

Kate carried Simon away ostentatiously to pique Mervyn, who was again enraged when he perceived her hanging on his rival's arm, in a manner which disgusted Jessie, who had been brought up in a different school of manners—or had inherited a better tone. So the evening passed till Kate and Simon came in, and Mervyn, bidding Jessie good-night, went out to smoke in the avenue.

As ill-luck would have it, Simon also came out triumphant; but ignorant of how far Kate had provoked his cousin.

"Hullo, are you here?" he said. "Scarcely expected to see you, Mervyn."

"Perhaps you thought Kate would meet you here," remarked Mervyn. "She is making a nice fool of you. But, look here, why did you tell her I was 'spooning' Bessie Calton? That's a lie, and you know it is."

"I didn't tell her," retorted Simon. "You are there a great deal, you know."

"So are you," replied Mervyn; "but *you* go when the father is not at home. I don't."

"Rubbish," said Simon, with a nervous laugh. "You are dreaming. Who cares for Bessie Calton?"

"I believe you have turned her head with your nonsense, and I'll take care her father knows it. Kate will have you all to herself then—Coquette'!"

"Mervyn, retract your remark. You have no business to speak of Miss Askenhurst thus."

"I speak of people as I find them. She is false and mean. Bessie is a good girl, if you have not poisoned her ears. Stand back, or I will tell you something more, you villain!"

"You coward! Take that!"

A heavy blow succeeded, and in a moment the cousins were engaged in fierce battle. They were not unequally matched, and the struggle continued for a few minutes with wavering fortune. At length Simon slipped in delivering a tremendous blow, which his adversary stopped, and retaliating with all his force on the nose and forehead, stretched Simon, bleeding, and half senseless, on the ground.

"You've had enough, you cur!" was the young man's remark, as he looked down. "Now tell lies to your dear Kate as much as you like!"

As Mervyn strode away, Simon rose and vowed revenge, with an oath.

"I'll pay you out for this, Master Mervyn, depend upon it; *my revenge will be full and complete, I swear!*"

CHAPTER III.

HOSEA AND SIMON PLOT A LITTLE SCHEME.

HOSEA CALTON was the superintendent of the property, appointed by Mr. Duncomb. He combined the duties of steward and bailiff, with certain overseeing of the alum works in the neighbourhood. No man in the district had such a reputation for knowledge of the seams and veins. It was by his advice that the new excavations had been made at some distance from the long-unworked Black Shaft. The village had been deserted; "hands" and hands' wives and children had migrated, leaving great heaps of slag, and slate, and rubbish, iron wheels, some trucks, and rails, an old pumping engine, and many unused and rusting articles, and decayed tokens of the death of the pit.

The "Black Shaft" had never been very productive. It had promised well, and had begun "bonnie." But the workings soon ceased; the seam suddenly stopped. The shaft remained, it got an evil name, and the Black Shaft thenceforward became unworkable. The men declined to dig any farther that way. Superstition raised its head out of the workings and alarmed the neighbourhood. Noises had been heard; sights seen, all of an uncertain and unearthly kind; these were quite sufficient to give the shaft an ill name. If a new opening could be made with reasonable expectation of success then the men would return. At present they had all deserted the place, for Mr. Duncomb had determined to wait. He had enough and to spare, and made alum out of the cliffs.

But when Hosea Calton came and hinted to him that there was "corn in Egypt," that the seam was as good as ever a few furlongs farther on, that a shaft might be sunk with success a mile nearer the "Rookery," then Horace Duncomb felt obliged, in his nephew's interest, to have the trial made. He could not live long; he only held the property for his life, or during his nephew's minority. Mervyn would come of age at twenty-five, and succeed. If he did not Simon would inherit from his father.

With plenty of money and no occupation nor responsibility, Mervyn Duncomb never contemplated usurping the position of "Squire" from his uncle. Horace Duncomb, quite accustomed to rule, did not trouble his nephew concerning the property. He was honest and true, but he also provided for his children and saved money, which, perhaps, had Mervyn known the facts, ought to have been spent on the property.

In all Horace Duncomb's transactions Hosea Calton was consulted. Young Simon and Hosea was quite friendly. Simon was older than Mervyn, his cousin, for the old squire, after many years of bachelorhood, had one day announced to his disgusted brother his intention to marry a penniless girl, the daughter of a perpetual curate—an old school-mate.

The marriage was celebrated, and in due time a direct heir was born to the property. Horace Duncomb felt himself ill-used, and when Mrs. Philip Duncomb died in giving birth to a daughter, who also died, the squire consented to leave him the property with the guardianship of his son till he, Mervyn, was twenty-five. If the lad died, the guardian could dispose of the property as he pleased, failing direct issue. But Mervyn had reached two-and-twenty in full possession of all his faculties, and a separate income of eight hundred pounds out of the property. He would surely succeed to it.

Simon Duncomb felt greatly aggrieved. Until his uncle had married he had been regarded as the heir. Now he found himself, at thirty, practically dependent upon his cousin, whom he detested. But he endeavoured to conceal his real feelings, and assumed a sanctimonious manner, making a kind of Puritan protest against any amusements, while he indulged himself, in secret, in much more questionable ways than those he denounced.

In Hosea Calton he found a "kindred spirit"—one, who while "serving the Lord," as he continually expressed it, was careful to serve himself. But each man, though pretty accurately gauging the other, still retained the character he had assumed, and though one belonged to the Established Church and the other Dissented, they met on the common ground of "humbug" and self seeking, but, above all, Hosea was for seeking iron and coal.

What a difference two-score years has made in North-east Yorkshire! The busy Cleveland district, now teeming with furnaces, tunnelled with galleries and shafts, long and deep. On the surface are many evidences of the labourious industry of the district, but underground the miners drill, hack, and blast the ironstone into long streets and great passages.

The beauties of the Esk and its neighbourhood, the picturesqueness of Mulgrave, Marske, or Runswick had no charm for Hosea Calton. Rugged and rough by nature, his pleasures were of a consistent character. Roughness and ruggedness attracted him. The shaft and the mine, with their grim and grimy associations, had more charms for him than the quaint beauty of Lofthouse or the rolling moor, the hills and dales. The green and purple moorland, the farmed land, the woods and streams had no pleasure for Hosea, who regarded them as coverings merely for the hoards of natural wealth, which he believed lay below. So he tunnelled and drove his galleries, assisted by speculators, but failed at first. Now he had, he believed, "struck oil," or rather iron; and he rejoiced that the day had dawned for Cleveland.

Simon Duncomb had been in his confidence and had found him money. Simon had conceived the idea of enriching himself out of his cousin's property, and snapping his fingers at him. Horace Duncomb was absolutely careless; he had failed before, and doubted the result now, but Hosea was positive. If Simon could only manage to get Mervyn out of the way before the value of the new seams could be made known, a company might be formed, or the mine might be worked by the owners of the property.

To get Mervyn out of the way was now Simon's wish and intention. Hosea would, he fancied, assist him; at any rate the attempt should be made; on that the young man was determined. He had many reasons for wishing Mervyn away, and go he must, of his own will or by force.

So it was with the greatest satisfaction that Simon learned that Katie's behaviour had aroused a jealous passion in the young man's heart, and that he had determined to leave home. The next thing was to induce him to leave before the value of the property had been fully disclosed. Mervyn, careless as he was, had expressed his doubt to Jessie concerning the new vein, and he was now too much annoyed with Katie to pause in his plans and too impulsive to remain to see the issue.

Simon hurried away early next morning and sought Hosea Calton. He found the man of iron already up and stirring. His daughter, an only child—his wife was dead—was seated with him at breakfast. The man greeted his visitor in Yorkshire parlance, which we will not attempt to produce here.

"You're early afield," he said. "Sit ye down and eat a morsel. Here, Bess, make room for young squire; quick, lass."

Bessie moved away as directed, and Simon placed himself beside her father.

"Look here, Hosea, what time must we go down to-day? Can't we delay the inspection?"

"Delay. Yes, o' course. But why? Ain't the squire ready to come?"

"Yes, he will come, and my cousin: but you see, he wishes to leave soon and it would be a pity to hinder him."

"Ah yes: so 'twould. Well, we talk it over. Finish your food, and we'll go and see about this. Now then, Bess, what do you want?"

"Nothing, father. I ——"

"Well, take it with you; young squire and me has something to talk on—business it is. Have you read your chapter this morning?"

"No, father; not yet"

"Well, then, bring your Bible, and we'll read it together, and have a few words. Then we shall rise refreshed, Mr. Duncomb."

"Certainly," assented Simon; "by all means."

As soon as the morning service was over Hosea reached down his pipe from the chimney-piece, and beckoning his visitor said—

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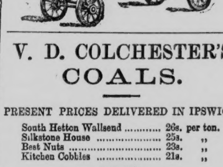

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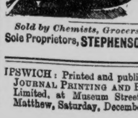

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